

Let's Take Care of Our New Turtle

by Alejandro Algarra

An educational book that teaches children about turtles, along with fun activities for kids who own turtles.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How many of you have ever had a turtle as a pet?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if this is a nice or mean turtle?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Let's Take Care of Our New Turtle*

- aquarium: a water-filled transparent container, often box-shaped, in which fish and other water animals and plants are kept
- gadgets: a small device that performs or aids a simple task
- permanent: lasting forever or for a very long time
- veterinarian: somebody trained in the medical treatment of animals
- reptiles: an air-breathing cold-blooded egg-laying animal with an outer covering of scales or plates and a bony skeleton
- sunbathing: to expose the body to sun or a sun lamp, especially in order to get a tan
- ultraviolet: a lamp or bulb that gives off ultraviolet radiation
- crystals: a piece of a mineral in crystal form
- nutrients: a substance that provides nourishment
- cold-blooded: varying body temperature
- draft: a current of uncomfortably cold air
- survive: to remain alive or in existence or able to live or function
- displace: to force somebody or something to leave its home
- refresh: to renew somebody's energy

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What is a turtle? Color? How many legs?
- Why couldn't the kids touch their new turtle? How long did they wait?
- What is one of the first things they did when they got their new turtle? Why did they take him to the Vet?
- What did they name the turtle? What was your turtle's name?
- What is a turtle called that has a green body and red markings behind his ears? They are not ears, why not? What other reptiles do not have ears?
- What size was the turtle when they brought him home?
- What are some things that turtles like to do? Do you like to swim?
- Can you describe the shape of the turtle's house? How big?
- What type of light does the turtle need to grow big and strong? Why?
- Why does a turtle hide inside his shell?
- Why does the turtle's aquarium need to be cleaned? How often?
- What does a turtle like to eat? How much should you feed him? Do turtles like meat? How often do you give turtles meat?
- Are turtles cold or hot-blooded? What does this mean? What type of light do turtles need? Why?
- Why didn't the children get another turtle friend for Shelly?
- Why did Shelly, the turtle, get sick? What kind of doctor did they take him to?
- Why was the children's Mom angry when she heard that John's friend turned his turtle loose in the pond? What should he have done with the turtle?
- How long will red-slider turtles live? Twenty-five years to forty years?



Do

Create Your Very Own Turtle Box

Have the children craft their very own turtle box by following the directions provided in the back of this book.