



The northern long-necked turtle

**Let's protect our
freshwater turtles!**

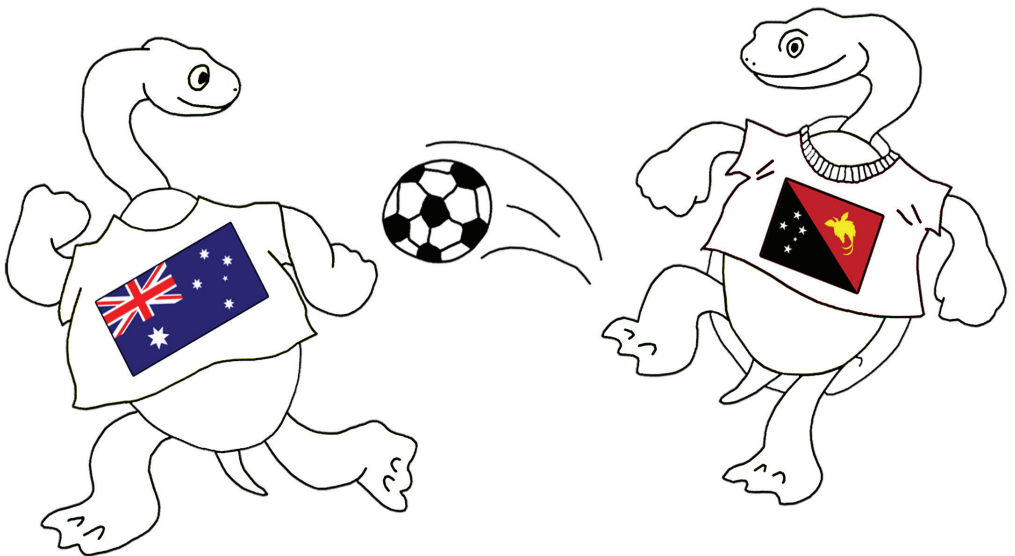
This booklet has been produced by Carla Eisemberg, Isabel Ely, Susanne Casanova, Linda Ford, Chloe Ford and Emily Ford for the project: "Assessment of northern long-necked turtle population status and school awareness along the Finnis River, Northern Territory".

Hello! I am a northern long-necked turtle (*Chelodina oblonga*). I am also known as Munjtjirr, which means a small to average sized long-necked turtle in Rak Mak Marranunggu language. I am a freshwater turtle, but sometimes I like to move about on land.



I can travel fast in the water, but I walk very slowly, so people need to be careful not to run me over when I'm crossing the road.

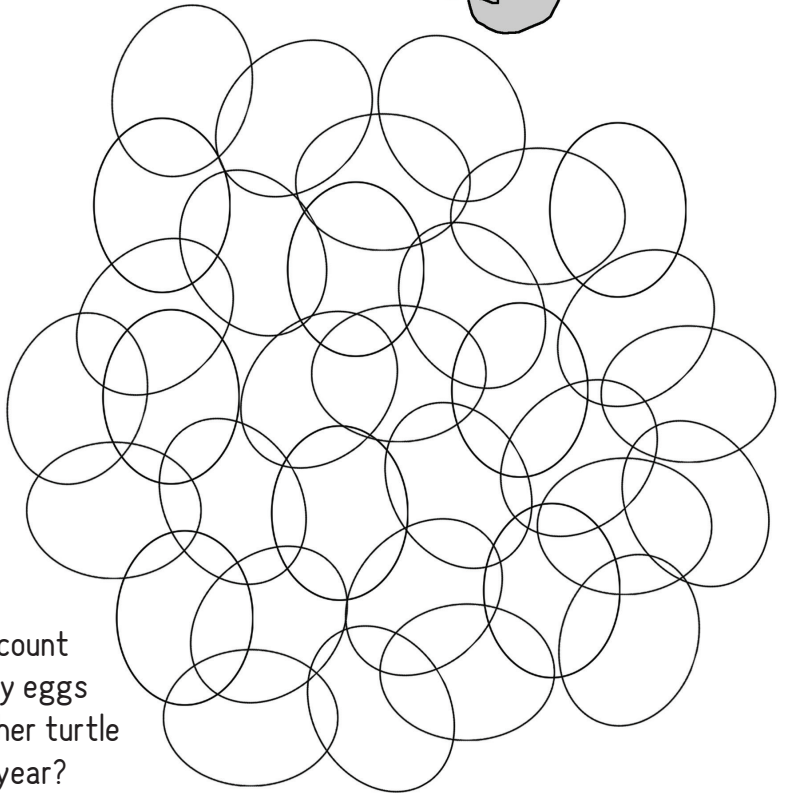
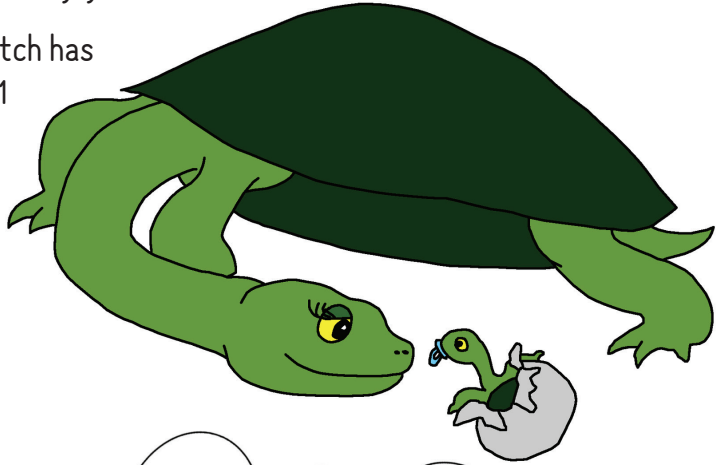
You can find long-necked turtles in swamps, waterholes, and slow flowing rivers in northern Australia and southern New Guinea. I love floodplains, where I can find tasty fishes and water bugs to eat during the wet season, and nice muddy areas to lay my eggs during the dry season. This is me playing with my cousin from Papua New Guinea.



Colour in the picture, using my photo to help you.

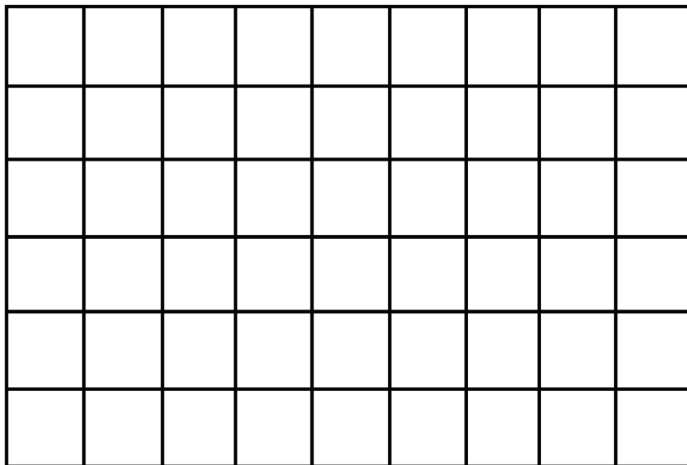
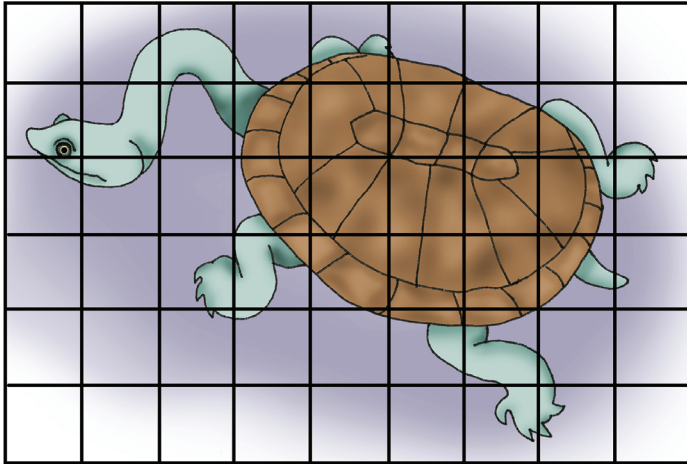
Mother long-necked turtles lay two to four clutches of eggs every year.

Each clutch has around 11 eggs.



Can you count how many eggs this mother turtle laid last year?

When we hatch out of the egg we are tiny. Our shell is the size of a fifty-cent coin. But if we find a safe place to live with lots of food, we can grow fast – up to 10 times bigger than when we were born.



Copy the picture using the grid to learn how to draw a long-necked turtle.

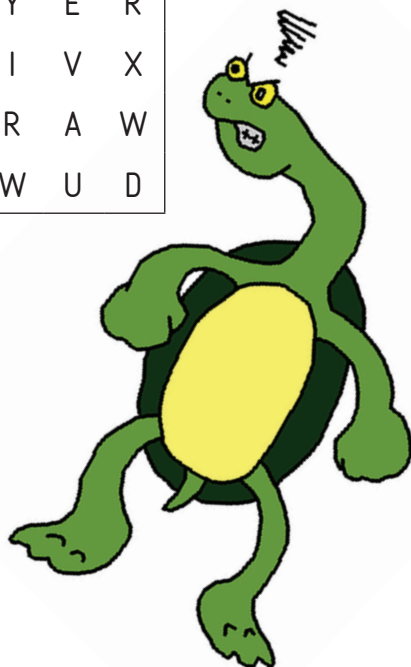
Sometimes we find rubbish that people throw in the river.
We eat it and get very sick.

Find in the word search different types of rubbish that
can make a turtle sick.

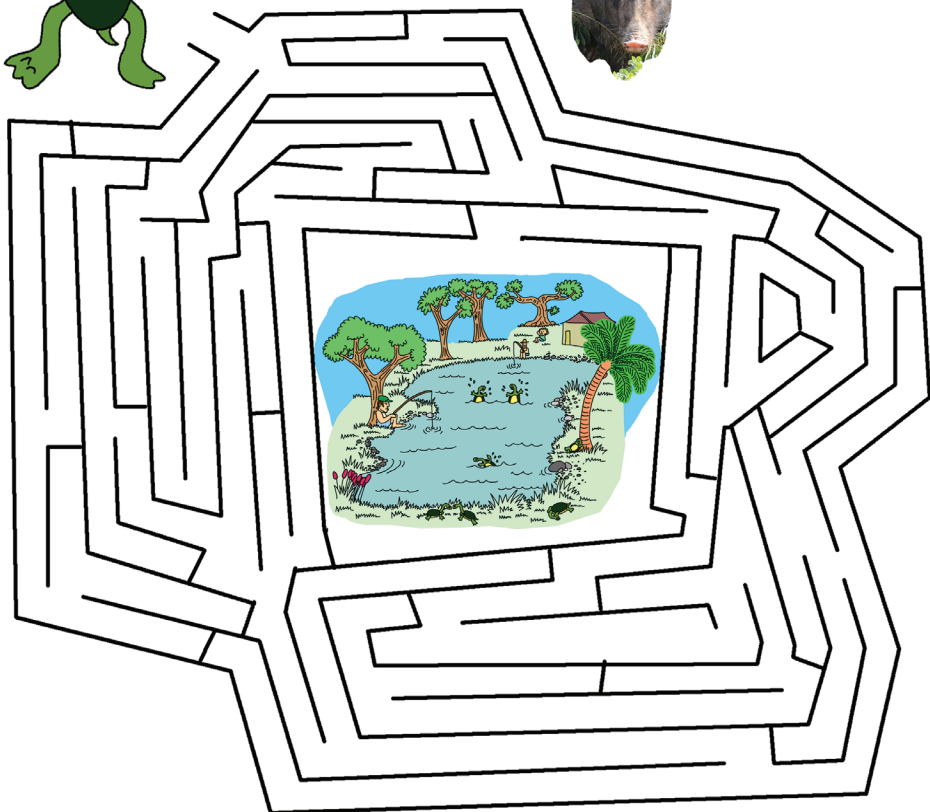
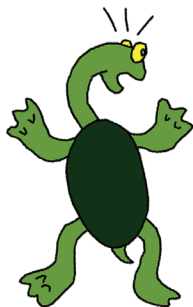


PLASTIC
STRAW
CAN
METAL
BOTTLE

BAG
PAPER
GLASS
CHEWING GUM



Turtles are very scared of pigs! - they like eating us.
They can find us in our holes, where we hide during the
dry season. Pigs are also good at finding our eggs.



Help the turtle to find a safe billabong where he
can hide from the pigs.

This is where I live on the
Finniss River floodplain.



The place in this picture is called Munjirr Munjirr tjabatj
wuda taddi (Home Hill Little Jungle Billabong) in Rak Mak Mak
Marranunggu language.

Thanks for protecting us! See you next time!



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