



# Animal Tails:



*explorations of the animal world through connections to literature*

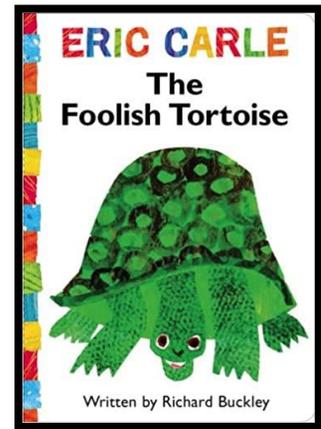
## “The Foolish Tortoise”

by Eric Carle and Richard Buckley

**Age:** grades Pre-K-1

### Gather your Gear

- “The Foolish Tortoise” book or log on to watch the storybook reading
- Recyclables: cardboard, old newspapers/magazines, Styrofoam
- Paper
- Scissors
- Crayons, markers or colored pencils



### Get Ready

*You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before reading the story.*

- What types of animals have you seen at a zoo?
- What do you know about tortoises?
- Do you think tortoises need their shells?

### Read

*Read the book, stopping to explore key story ideas. Below are some prompts to help guide you.*

- What do you think would help the tortoise feel safer while he isn't wearing his shell?
- How does the tortoise feel about his shell at the end of the story?

### Reflect

*Briefly discuss what was important or what we learned. Below are some questions to guide you.*

- What did the tortoise learn by spending the day without his shell?

### Relate

*Create connections to the idea through activities.*

#### **Activity 1: Turtle-tastic Recreations!**

Turtles, like tortoises, have shells that they are born with, and that grow with them over the course of their lives. Unlike tortoises, who spend most of their time on land, turtles like to spend a lot of



# Animal Tails:



*explorations of the animal world through connections to literature*

time in the water. In this activity, you will recreate the scene where the foolish tortoise hides from the fish as if the story were about a turtle in the water.

1. Gather your crafting materials.
2. Draw/create your turtle. Remember, your turtle wanted to swim faster and has left its shell for the day!
3. Draw/create your underwater landscape. This is where your turtle will be hiding from the fish.
4. Draw/create the fish that the turtle is trying to hide from.
5. Enjoy your masterpiece!

## **Did you know**

- Turtles and tortoises are hatched within their shells, and their shells will grow with them their entire lives.
- Tortoise and turtle shells are made of two parts: the carapace, or top shell, grows out of the spine. The plastron is the part of the shell that covers the belly. The carapace and the plastron are connected by what's known as the "bridge."
- Since tortoise and turtle shells are part of their skeletal structures, a tortoise could not take off its shell in real life.
- Tortoises and turtles are cold-blooded. This means that their environment dictates their body temperature. So, if they are getting too cold, they will move to somewhere warm and sunny to warm up their bodies. If they are getting too warm, they will move into a cooler, shady spot to cool their bodies down.
- Tortoises are typically herbivores and eat mostly plants. Turtles are known to eat a combination of plants and animals such as fish.



## **It takes a team.... join ours**

Help us save species by joining the "Zoo Conservation Corps" and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If you or your family are on social media, post to share with your family and friends what you have learned. Use the hashtag #OnlyZooATL so that we can see all your great work!



# Animal Tails:



*explorations of the animal world through connections to literature*

## **Want to know more....**

- Go to Zoo Atlanta's website to learn about some of the turtles and tortoises that call Zoo Atlanta home:
  - <https://zooatlanta.org/animal/aldabra-giant-tortoise/>
  - <https://zooatlanta.org/animal/diamondback-terrapin/>
  
- Another great site for information on additional tortoise and turtle species is National Geographic Kids: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/>