

# 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.