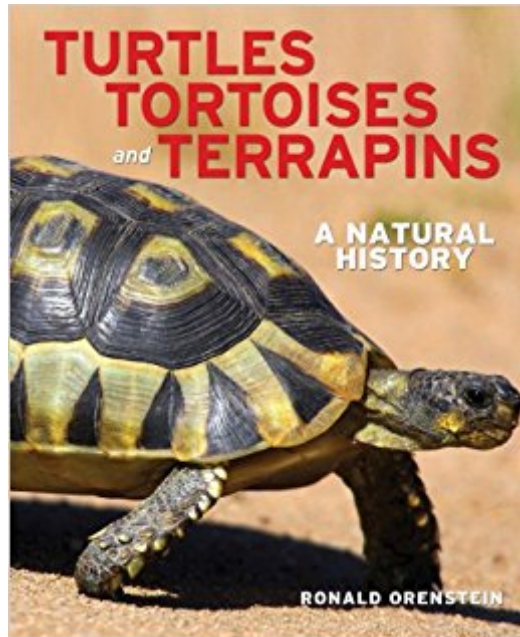




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# Turtles, Tortoises And Terrapins: A Natural History



## Synopsis

Praise for the first edition: With deft prose and engaging anecdotes, Mr. Orenstein takes us skillfully through a vast amount of information....[his] treatment is nothing short of masterly. --Science Books and Films Abounds with excellent color photographs. Recommended for all public and academic libraries. -- Library Journal The remarkable adaptations of turtles, tortoises and terrapins have helped them survive for over 200 million years. They are the most wide-ranging of reptiles, found in deserts, forests and the open ocean. But they are also among the world's most endangered animals. They face the multiple threats of habitat destruction, poaching, overhunting (for food and traditional medicines), deadly tangles with fishing lines and capture for the international pet trade. Around the world, turtle populations are under attack on land and sea. Many species are close to extinction and efforts are underway to save them. It is among the main goals of this book to foster awareness about these unique and threatened creatures. In this new edition, zoologist Ronald Orenstein describes the astonishing ways that turtles cope with their environment. He updates readers on the latest discoveries and explores the debate on origins of the turtle. Every aspect of their evolution, life history and conservation status is presented in 250 photographs and lively text supplemented with numerous maps and a bibliography. The battle to save turtles goes on. Turtles, Tortoises and Terrapins is fascinating, informative and essential for anyone interested in these amazing creatures and concerned about their precarious future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Turtles are among the world's most endangered vertebrates, with half their species threatened with extinction. This work covers conservation issues as well as all aspects of their life histories and evolution from a comprehensive global perspective. This revised work (updating *Turtles, Tortoises and Terrapins: Survivors in Armor*, 2001) features mostly new color photographs as well as updated entries based on recent research. Author Orenstein possesses impressive credentials as a writer and wildlife conservationist. His great enthusiasm for turtles, tortoises, and terrapins burnishes his prose. Written for a popular audience, the volume offers a descriptive narrative presentation. The topically arranged chapters cover three broad areas: what turtles are, how turtles live, and challenges to their future survival. Within those chapters, commentary encompasses basic anatomy and physiology, evolution, life histories of representative species, environmental adaptations, reproduction, sea turtle migration, and conservation issues. A multitude of interesting facts pique reader interest. (The yellow mud turtle can apparently spend as long as two years in a state of dormancy.) The section on the perils to turtles worldwide commands attention—loss of habitat, pollution, disease, use of turtles as food and medicine, overhunting, and the pet trade threaten many species. More than 250 large color photographs, illustrations, and range maps augment the text. Many photographs depict turtles in their natural habitats, including some spectacular underwater scenes. Use of a large font renders the text very easy to read. An extensive 16-page bibliography, arranged by chapter, provides books and scholarly articles to encourage further engagement. The index offers subject access to the contents. Notable for outstanding color photographs and highly accessible and engaging content, *Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins* merits high recommendation for all types of libraries. --Nancy Cannon

Fascinating, informative and essential for anyone interested in these amazing creatures and concerned about their precarious future. (Ian Paulsen GrrlScientist, *The Guardian* 2012-10-14) Brilliant colour photographs show the amazing variety and stunning markings of species from around the world. (North Shore News 2012-11-21) [Review of earlier edition:] The book does a good job of answering the questions of what turtles, terrapins, and tortoises are, how they live, and whether they will survive ... The book abounds with excellent color photographs. Recommended for all public and academic libraries. (Lynn C. Badger *Library Journal* 2002-04-01) [Review of earlier edition:] Comprehensive coverage ... their evolution, life history and conservation. (*Nature* 2001-12-01) [Review of earlier edition:] With deft prose and engaging anecdotes, Mr. Orenstein takes us skillfully through a vast amount of information packaged to be remembered without undue effort. ... In essence, Mr. Orenstein's treatment is nothing short of masterly. (John Matthew *Science*

Books and Films)[Review of earlier edition:] This book is a great secondary teaching resource for harnessing students' natural curiosity. It's not only for enthusiasts but can also provide research material for motivated biology students. (Amanda Ziglinski Science Teacher)[Review of earlier edition:] [Orenstein's] accurate and fact-filled text, while easily readable by the most casual of turtle observers, will almost certainly provide some unknown tidbit of useful information to just about everyone regardless of expertise. (John P. Level Turtle and Tortoise Bookshop Newsletter 2002-01-01)[Review of earlier edition:] Almost everything a turtle enthusiast could possibly want to know can be found in this comprehensive book. (Joy Saethre VOYA [Voice of Youth Advocates] 2002-08-01)A detailed, superbly illustrated volume that summarizes much of the biology and natural history of world turtles and emphasizes conservation throughout... Intended for popular consumption, [it] is well written in an instructive and entertaining style, with an easy-to-comprehend vernacular and a minimum of technical terminology. Over 250 superb and well-chosen color photographs, distribution maps, charts, and monochrome drawings complement the narrative... Highly recommended. All public, high school, and undergraduate library collections. (E. D. Keiser, emeritus, University of Mississippi Choice 2013-06-01)An AMAZING book! ... an encyclopedic accomplishment without losing a small book, single author's charm and verve for the subject. Mr. Orenstein...has made this herpetologist very happy... He obviously loves his subject and took great care to get it right in every fashion... There must be thousands of hours devoted just to the acquisition of the photo collection, which are beautiful and much better than what is generally expected.... This is a true science book, (I rejoice to say)... If you like turtles you will love this book, if you love turtles you cannot be without this book! (Bill Boesenberg, SnakesnScales and Turtle Tales, W Science Books and Film 2013-02-01)This work covers conservation issues -- as well as all aspects of their life histories and evolution -- from a comprehensive global perspective. This revised work (updating Turtles, Tortoises and Terrapins: Survivors in Armor, 2001) features mostly new color photographs as well as updated entries based on recent research... Written for a popular audience, the volume offers a descriptive narrative presentation... Notable for outstanding color photographs and highly accessible and engaging content, Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins merits high recommendation for all types of libraries. (Nancy Cannon Booklist 2013-02-01)An AMAZING book! It is an encyclopedic accomplishment without losing a small-book, single-author's charm and verve for the subject... [Orenstein] obviously loves his subject and took great care to get it right in every fashion... Full color photos that are clear and well thought out illustrate the points being discussed... [they] are beautiful and much better than what is generally expected for a fairly dense, (for a layman book) work. This is a true science book, (I rejoice to say)... If you like turtles you will

love this book, if you love turtles you cannot be without this book! (Bill Boesenberg, SnakesnScales and Turtle Tales, W Science Books and Film 2013-01-01)This book addresses the 320 species of extant turtles in the world and is an update of the 2001 version of Orenstein's book titled Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins: Survivors in Armor... Biologists, including students, interested in turtles should become familiar with this updated version as a general reference on selected natural history traits of turtles. (J. Whitfield Gibbons, Savannah River Ecology Labor Quarterly Review of Biology Vol 88 No 4 2013-12-01)Best Books for Junior High and YA 2013 (Science Books and Film 2014-01-01)

"Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins" by Ronald Orenstein This is surely one of the most - if not THE most - authoritative and thorough work on the natural history of turtles, tortoises and terrapins available anywhere. While it is on the order of a major reference work, the author has made it very readable for amateur wildlife aficionados as well as for serious students and professionals. It is also abundantly graced with very, very nice photos that actually support the text in addition to presenting the beauty inherent in Nature, even the nature of the humble turtles we generally pay scant attention to.

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great informative book

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Fantastic review of turtle biology and ecology with examples given from all over the world.

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