

# TURTLES

## LESSON

### TERM TWO

## THREATS TO FRESHWATER TURTLES

- Learning Objectives
- Background
- Activities
- Curriculum Mapping

Photo credit: Dr Donald McKnight





Photo credit: Marilyn Connell

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## **PAGE 3**

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Here you will find the learning objectives for this lesson

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## **PAGE 5**

### **CLASSROOM ACTIVITY**

There is one activity for this lesson.

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## **PAGE 4**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Learn about the threats to freshwater turtles species

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## **PAGE 6 - 7**

### **CURRICULUM**

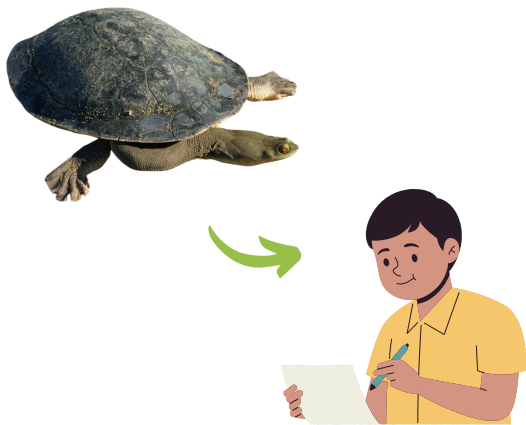
See how this lesson maps with the Australian curriculum

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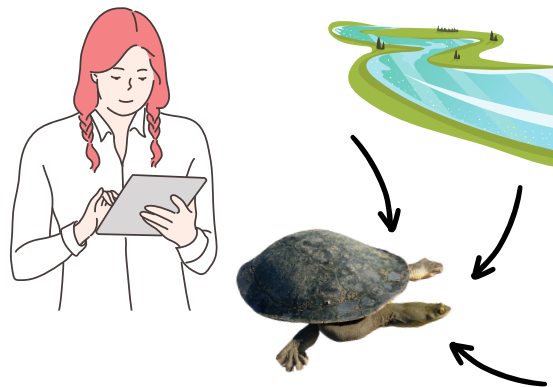
# Learning Objectives

At the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- (1) Identify the threats to freshwater turtle species;
- (2) Describe how the threats impact turtle populations.



**Describe**



**Identify**

# Background Information

## Freshwater turtle declines

There are 25 species of freshwater turtle in Australia. Of these, almost half are listed as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered. Freshwater turtles face a range of threats that contribute to declining populations.

Common threats include:

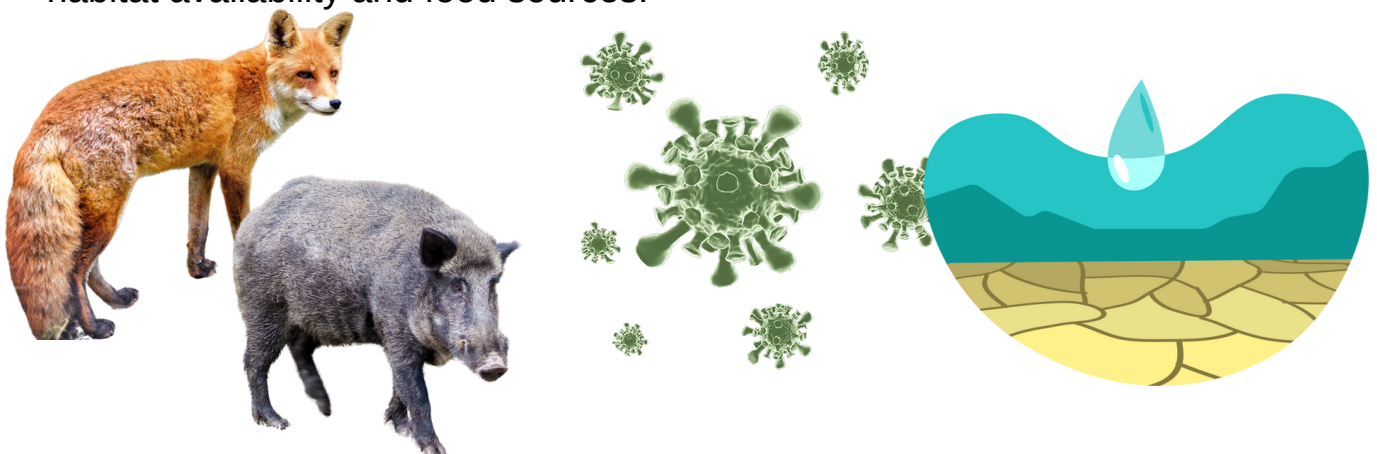
**1) Habitat loss and degradation:** One of the most significant threats to freshwater turtles is the loss and degradation of their natural habitats.

Wetland destruction due to urbanisation, agricultural activities, land clearing, and dam construction reduces the availability of suitable aquatic habitats, nesting sites and the availability of food sources.

**2) Predation by introduced predators:** Introduced predators, such as foxes and feral pigs, pose a significant threat to freshwater turtles and their eggs. These predators often prey on nesting females, eggs, and hatchlings, thereby reducing recruitment into the population.

**3) Disease:** Freshwater turtles are susceptible to various diseases and infections. The introduction of novel pathogens can have devastating impacts on turtle populations.

**4) Climate change:** The changing climate presents several challenges for freshwater turtles. Rising temperatures may affect nesting success, as turtles rely on specific temperature ranges for egg incubation. Alterations in rainfall patterns and increased frequency of droughts may also impact habitat availability and food sources.



# Classroom Activity

## ACTIVITY 1

(1A) Students select an Australian freshwater turtle species and identify and describe the main threat to the species, using available literature and search engines.

(1B) Students should outline the current conservation strategies for the species and present their findings to the class.



## Research



## Present

# Australian Curriculum addressed in this Lesson



## Science

### Strand: Science Understanding (Year 5)

#### Sub-strand: Biological Sciences

**AC9S5U01:** examine how particular structural features and behaviours of living things enable their survival in specific habitats.

### Strand: Science Understanding (Year 6)

#### Sub-strand: Biological Sciences

**AC9S6U01:** investigate the physical conditions of a habitat and analyse how the growth and survival of living things is affected by changing physical conditions.



## English

### Strand: Literacy (Year 5)

#### Sub-strand: Analysing, interpreting and evaluating

**AC9E5LY04:** navigate and read texts for specific purposes, monitoring meaning using strategies such as skimming, scanning and confirming.

**AC9E5LY05:** use comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, monitoring and questioning to build literal and inferred meaning to evaluate information and ideas.

# Australian Curriculum addressed in this Lesson



## English (continued)

### Strand: Literacy (Year 6)

#### Sub-strand: Analysing, interpreting and evaluating

**AC9E6LY04:** select, navigate and read texts for a range of purposes, monitoring meaning and evaluating the use of structural features; for example table of contents, glossary, chapters, headings and subheadings.

**AC9E6LY05:** use comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, monitoring and questioning to build literal and inferred meaning and to connect and compare content from a variety of sources.