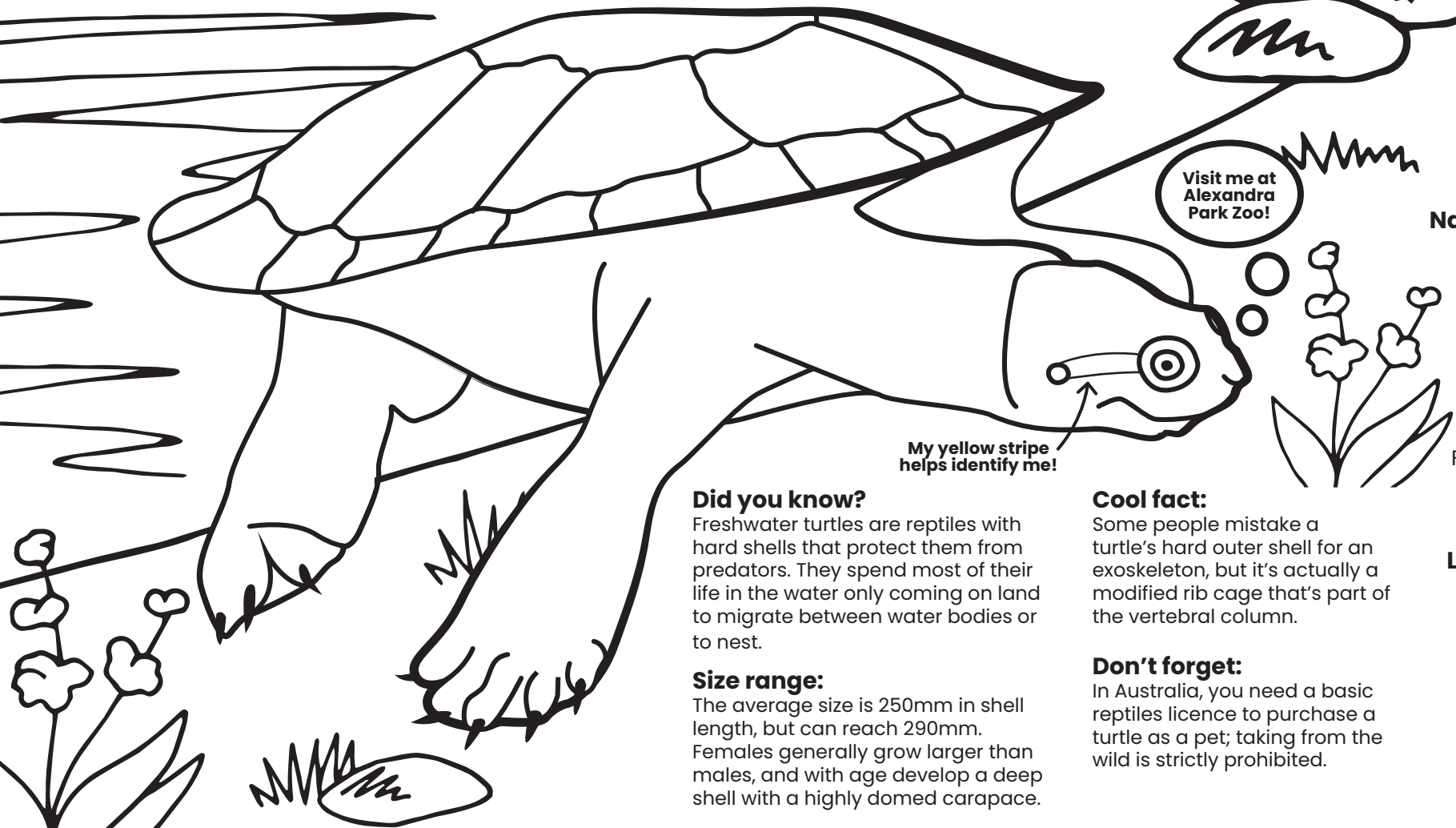


Kreffft's river turtle

(*Emydura macquarii krefftii*)

Facts for grown ups

This species of short-necked turtle was described by Dr J. E. Gray of the British Museum of Natural History in 1871. The first specimens were collected from the Burnett River in south-east Queensland by the Australian Museum under the then curator Gerard Krefft, who later forwarded them to the British Museum. The species was therefore named by Dr Gray *Chelymys krefftii* in honour of Krefft.



Did you know?

Freshwater turtles are reptiles with hard shells that protect them from predators. They spend most of their life in the water only coming on land to migrate between water bodies or to nest.

Size range:

The average size is 250mm in shell length, but can reach 290mm. Females generally grow larger than males, and with age develop a deep shell with a highly domed carapace.

Cool fact:

Some people mistake a turtle's hard outer shell for an exoskeleton, but it's actually a modified rib cage that's part of the vertebral column.

Don't forget:

In Australia, you need a basic reptiles licence to purchase a turtle as a pet; taking from the wild is strictly prohibited.

Origin:
Eastern Australia



Habitat:
Freshwater lakes



Predators:
Snakes, water rats and fish



Diet:
Plants, insects and fish



Natural defenses:
Tough shell



Reproduction:
Sexually mature at 7-10 yrs



Threats:
Fox predation and habitat alteration



Life expectancy:
16 years in human care

