

# SPCA® Kids

## Kind Matters

# News

Issue 27 / Aug 2023

## Kia ora and Kia orana to Kiwi Kids reading Kind Matters!

Welcome to another fun issue of Kind Matters, dedicated to helping animals in need! Kind Matters is on a journey to Rarotonga - Cook Islands with Karen McMillan's new book, *Elastic Island Adventures: Rarotonga*.

This issue explores how we can make a positive difference in the lives of companion animals and wildlife, including marine animals. There's also interesting facts, fun activities, a craft, and our new Kind Matters COMPETITION!



Attention all talented young Kiwi artists! Are you ready to set off on an island adventure while learning about sun safety for companion animals? Grab your colouring pencils and prepare to enter the magical world of *Elastic Island Adventures - Rarotonga*, featuring the brave cat, Blong!

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to win some truly pawesome prizes and to learn about sun safety for our animal friends. The judges are specifically looking for; careful colouring inside the lines, a variety of colours, and that you had fun! Don't be afraid to use your imagination.

The Colouring Competition closes on Monday 23rd October 2023. To enter and for Terms and Conditions click [here](#) or visit the Kids' Portal here: [www.sPCA.nz/kindmatters](http://www.sPCA.nz/kindmatters)

Happy colouring!



**Please note:** by entering SPCA competitions, you're agreeing for SPCA New Zealand to share your work on all SPCA webpages and within social media postings. Thank you to our sponsors Elastic Island Adventures and Faber-Castell NZ for the amazing prizes, and EUGY for our spot prizes!



## What's Inside



**A Closer Look at: Cook Islands SPCA - Rarotonga**  
Learn about companion animals and hot weather!



**Kind Conservation: Sea Turtles** Learn about these marine animals and how you can help!



**Craft: Egg Carton Green Turtle** Make your very own sea turtle out of egg cartons!



Visit [www.sPCA.nz/kids](http://www.sPCA.nz/kids) for more animal information!

and much more...



## Take a Closer Look: Cook Islands SPCA - Rarotonga

We are going to learn all about the Cook Islands SPCA and how to care for animals in the heat.

The Cook Islands SPCA in Rarotonga are responsible for the care of stray, abused, and homeless animals. Their mission is to enhance animal welfare and educate the Rarotonga people on best practices animal care.

The Cook Islands SPCA is a small team of devoted volunteers who run an SPCA Op Shop, kennel site, weekly raffles, quizzes, and garage sales. They also respond to daily calls from the public concerning animals and help transport animals who require veterinary attention. Similar to SPCA New Zealand, a current focus for the Cook Islands SPCA desexing to help keep the dog population under control.



Photo Credit: Cook Islands SPCA



Rarotonga is a tropical island and even in winter can have high temperatures and UV levels.

Let's learn how to be a responsible animal guardian when it is hot!

- Give your animal companions shade and vet-approved sunscreen to protect their skin.
- Avoid letting your dog stay on hot concrete or black sand for too long. Their body temperature can rise quickly, and their paw pads are sensitive and can easily get burned.
- During summer or hot weather, swimming can be one of the best activities for your dog, if they enjoy it. Take them for a swim with a responsible adult.
- Check your animal's water bowls regularly and make sure they are filled with fresh, clean, cool water every day.
- When going to the beach with your dog, always bring fresh water for them to drink. They cannot drink seawater as it can make them sick.

## Book Nook

**Title:** Elastic Island Adventures: Rarotonga

**Author:** Karen McMillan

**Cover art:** Pania and Ivon Lee



Kiri, Jed and twins Emma and Ethan are back. This time, they travel with Blong the Cat and Heathcliff the Dog to beautiful Rarotonga.

They are expecting to relax in the sun, but it's not long until they run into problems. Firstly, Mighty Moko, the resident grumpy gecko who lives in their room, is determined to get rid of them, no matter what! But his annoying antics are quickly surpassed when all the black pearls on the island are stolen in a brazen heist.

The thief leaving clues scattered around the island. The children are determined to solve the clues, but even with the help of the wise Mana Tiaki, will they be successful?

## Activity: True or False

- Animals need to be provided with fresh water every second-day **T/F**
- Animals have special sunblock to keep them sun-safe **T/F**
- It's safe to keep a dog locked in a car **T/F**
- You can go for a walk when the ground is hot **T/F**
- Frozen treats are a great way for animals to cool down **T/F**



**Did you know....**  
The Cook Islands can have hot weather even in winter?



## Kind Conservation: Sea Turtles - Honu



**Did you know that sea turtles do not only live in warm tropical places like the Cook Islands, but they also spend time living around New Zealand? Five different species of sea turtles spend time in New Zealand's waters. All five species are endangered or even critically endangered, but not to fear there are ways that YOU can help these vulnerable marine animals!**

New Zealand is the home to the Leatherback turtle, Green turtle, Loggerhead turtle, Hawksbill turtle and Olive Ridley turtle. Most of these turtles are seen around the harbours and bays of the North Island, where the water is warmer. Turtle sightings on beaches are becoming more common, which is not common for New Zealand. This is because more sea turtles are becoming sick from pollution, entangled in old fishing nets and hurt by boats.

In warmer countries, turtles come on to beaches to nest and lay their eggs.

We are very lucky that there are organisations working together to look after these beautiful marine reptiles that live in New Zealand waters:

- Injured or stranded turtles are rescued by The Department of Conservation (DOC).
- The Auckland Zoo vet team provide veterinary care for the sea turtles.
- Kelly Tarlton's give turtles needing rehabilitation a temporary home while they are getting healthy and ready to be released back into the ocean.

*Report injured or stranded turtles to the DOC emergency hotline 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).*

## Book Nook

**Title:** Marine Life Matters

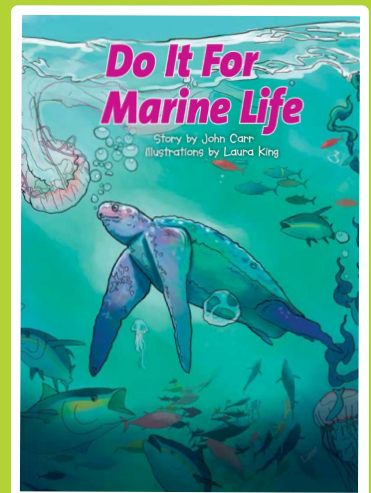
**Author:** John Carr

**Illustrator:** Laura King

Shocked after discovering one of the balloons she released on her 9th birthday, had contributed to the death of an endangered turtle, Briar is determined to do something positive for the environment.

This is a great example of how we can help protect not only turtles, but all wildlife from rubbish and waste!

Every primary school in New Zealand was gifted 6 copies of Marine Life Matters, so if you haven't read this awesome story already, ask your classroom teacher if you can borrow a copy!



## Responsible Guardianship Tip:



Being a responsible guardian is not only important for companion animals, but we also have to ensure that we are responsible when it comes to our wildlife!



To all ocean enthusiasts and nature lovers, it is time to take action in New Zealand and make a difference for our turtles! Did you know that turtles often mistake human rubbish for food? This leads to severe health issues and even death. Together, we can help to protect these endangered species by picking up rubbish on our beaches.

Imagine you are a turtle and you are swimming eagerly towards a jellyfish for your breakfast. But to your dismay it's not a jellyfish at all, it's a dangerous plastic bag. Yuck!

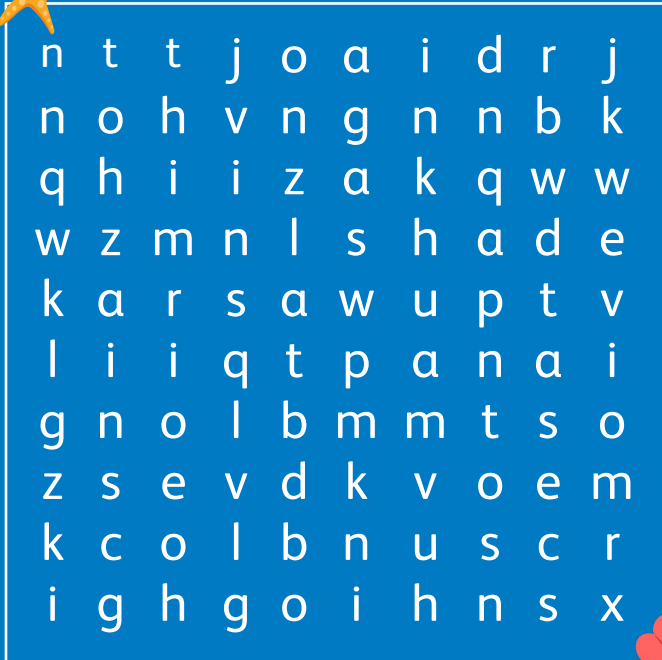
So, our question for you is...

**How can you help marine life in New Zealand?**



# Word Search

Find all of the words to do with sun safety below!



animal  
blong  
companion  
hot  
island  
shade  
sunblock  
water



# Conservation Week is Coming!

Term 3- Week 5 (August)

Top tip: Take action for sea turtles and other wildlife.

Organise a local school beach clean-up and encourage your principal to join! Remember, always make sure you have enough adults when you are around water and wear gloves.

Find out how you can organise a beach clean-up with DOC [here](#).



## Poem



You've been presented with an op-purr-tunity to write a poem that promotes positive animal welfare. You're free to choose any type of poem you enjoy, such as an acrostic or haiku.

Think about: *animal welfare, alliteration, personification, rhyme, use your 5 senses, and vocabulary.*

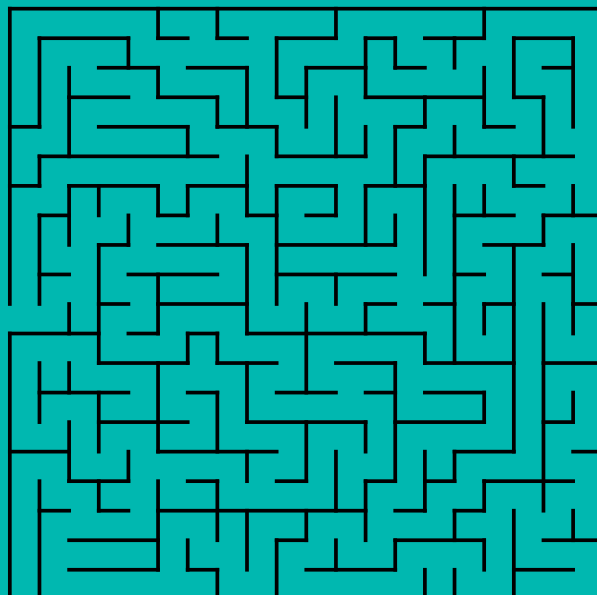
Share your final creation with us at [education@spca.nz](mailto:education@spca.nz) and it could go on to be featured on the Kids' Portal!

## Maze

Blong the cat found a lost and injured puppy on his adventures. Help Blong get the puppy to Cook Islands SPCA for care.



START



END





# Pawesome Supporters!



We would like to take the time to thank all of our pawesome supporters for their amazing generosity so far this year!

Volunteers are a major part of SPCA – we simply could not function without them. Young tamariki all over New Zealand help SPCA by making enrichment toys, holding their own fundraisers, fostering animals and donating much needed items.



During Calvin's school holidays, he kindly spent many hours creating various types of enrichment toys for the animals at SPCA. Once he completed the toys, he donated them to an SPCA Op shop. They were sent to local centres where animals could use them to fulfil their enrichment needs. To participate like Calvin, have a look at the *Get Involved* section on the Kids' Portal [here](#).



Don't forget to snap a picture of yourself or your activity while donating, fundraising, or fostering animals! We enjoy seeing tamariki helping animals in need.

Please send your pictures to our team to be featured on our Kids' Portal or even the next issue of *Kind Matters*! Email: [education@spca.nz](mailto:education@spca.nz)



SPCA

Education  
Webinars

## SPCA Education Webinars

Have you heard of SPCA Education Webinars?

During these fun, interesting, and educational 30-minute webinars you will learn about a variety of topics, including animal welfare, responsible animal guardianship, and the role SPCA plays in the community!

Ask your teacher or parent/guardian to visit [www.spca.nz/schools](http://www.spca.nz/schools) and register for a world of animal welfare!



## SPCA Instructional Readers in te reo Māori

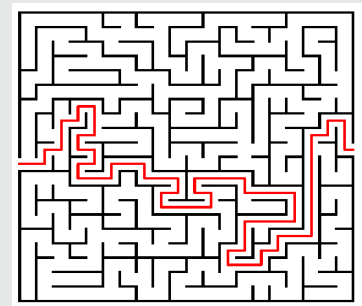
Māori medium learners, have you spotted the new te reo Māori editions of SPCA's Instructional Readers at school yet? Ask your teacher about them. Our friend Penny loves them! Woof woof!

### Answers:

Word Search:

~~n t t j o a i d r j~~  
~~n o h v n g n b k~~  
~~q h i j z a k q w w~~  
~~w z m n l s h a d e~~  
~~k a r s a w u p t v~~  
~~i i q t p a n a i~~  
~~g n o l b m m t s o~~  
~~z s e v d k v o e m~~  
~~k c o i b n u s c r~~  
~~i g h g o i h n s x~~

Maze:



Is there something you'd like to see in the next issue of *Kind Matters*?

We'd love to hear from you!

Email [education@spca.nz](mailto:education@spca.nz) with you ideas!

Share your  
ideas!



# Craft: Egg Carton Green Turtle

## Materials needed:

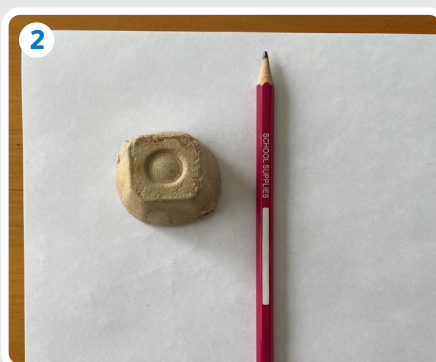
- > White card
- > Green pencil
- > Normal pencil
- > Hot glue gun + hot glue stick
- > Googly eyes x 2
- > Vivid
- > Green paint
- > Paint brush
- > Scissors
- > Egg carton



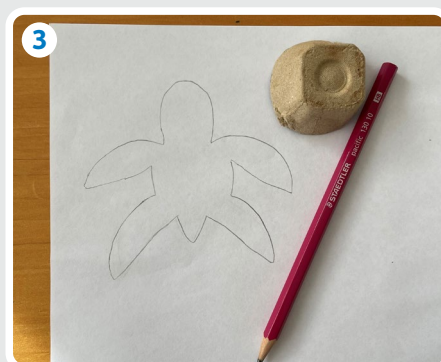
## Instructions



Use the scissors (carefully) and cut one egg holder out of the egg carton.



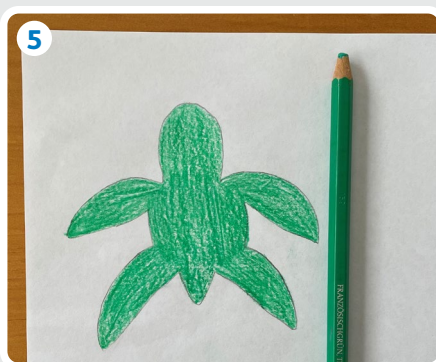
Place the egg carton on top of your chosen paper.



Draw the shape of your sea turtle around the single egg carton on your paper (don't forget its tail).



Paint the egg holder green with a paintbrush and wait for it to dry.



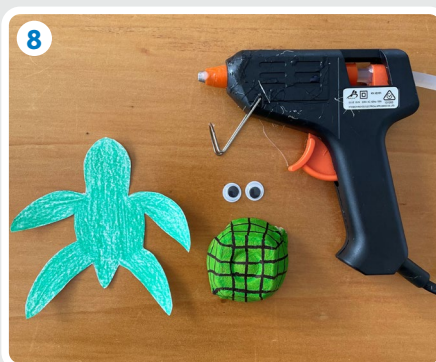
Colour in your green turtle using a green pencil.



Cut around the outline of your sea turtle.



Once it is dry, use a vivid to draw lines on your egg carton.

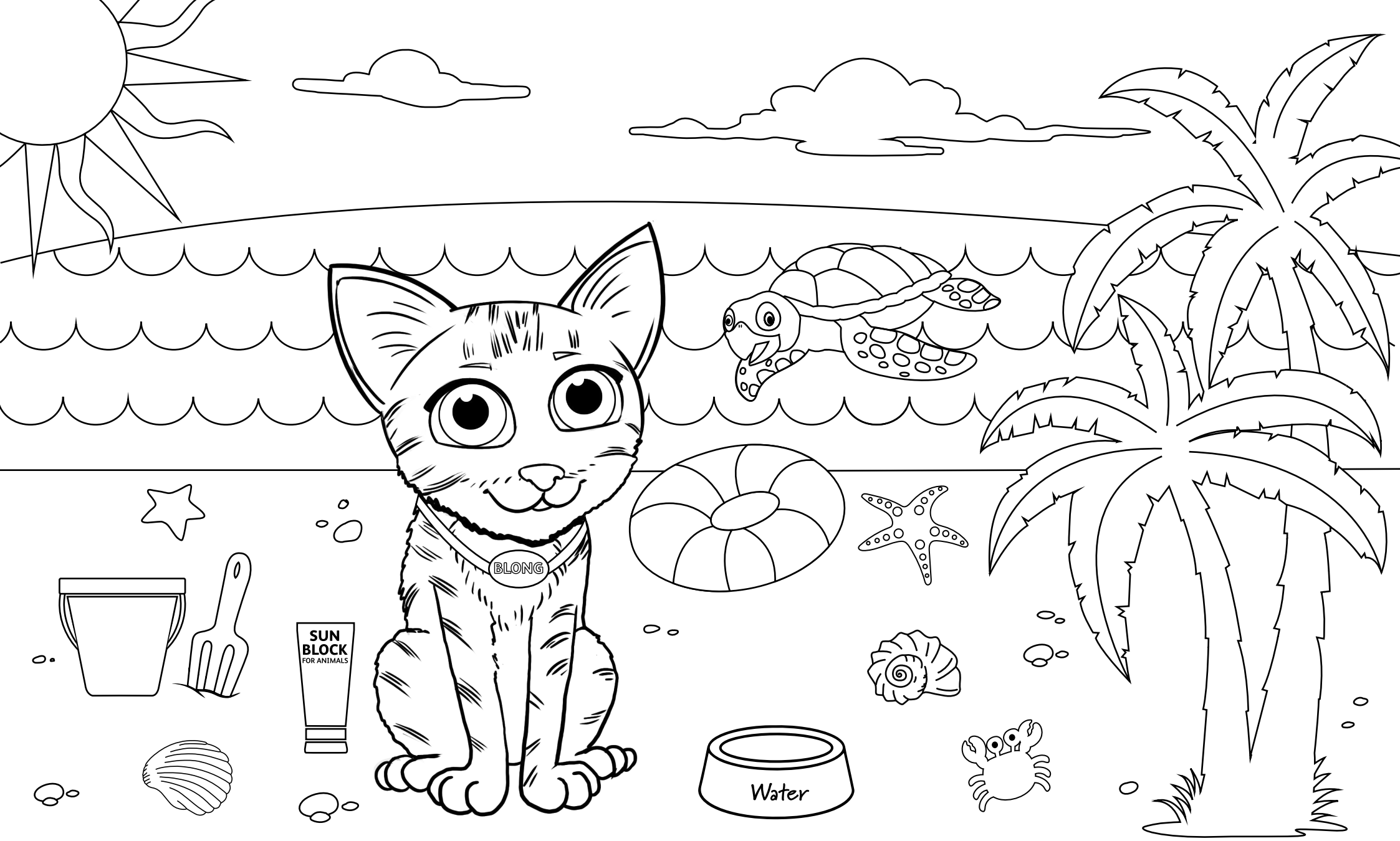


Hot glue the googly eyes and egg holder to your green turtle.



Make your green turtle some friends to swim around with!





First name: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_