

# Turtles and Tortoise

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## Differences between turtles and tortoises.

- Tortoises have more rounded and domed shells where turtles have thinner, more water-dynamic shells. Turtle shells are more streamlined to aid in swimming.
- One major key difference is that tortoises spend most of their time on land and turtles are adapted for life spent in water.
- Tortoises have club-like forelegs and 'elephantine' hind legs. Because tortoises are often larger and heavier, their elephantine hind legs help them move around and carry the extra weight!
- Turtles will have more flippers like legs, or webbed feet to make it easier to cruise through the water.

## There are 29 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises currently reported in India.

1. *Batagur kachuga*
2. *Batagur baska*
3. *Batagur dhongoka*
4. *Melanochelys tricarinata*
5. *Melanochelys trijuga*
6. *Cuora mouhotii*
7. *Cuora amboinensis*
8. *Vijayachelys silvatica*
9. *Hardella thurjii*
10. *Geoclemys hamiltonii*
11. *Pangshura tentoria*
12. *Pangshura tecta*
13. *Pangshura sylhetensis* Jerdon
14. *Pangshura smithii*
15. *Cyclemys gemeli* Fritz, Guicking, Auer, Sommer, Wink & Hundsdörfer

16. *Morenia petersi*
17. *Lissemys punctata*
18. *Pelochelys cantorii* Gray
19. *Amyda cartilaginea*
20. *Nilssonia gangetica*
21. *Nilssonia hurum*
22. *Nilssonia leithii*
23. *Nilssonia nigricans*
24. *Chitra indica*
25. *Geochelone elegans*
26. *Indotestudo travancorica*
27. *Indotestudo elongata*
28. *Manouria impressa*
29. *Manouria emys*