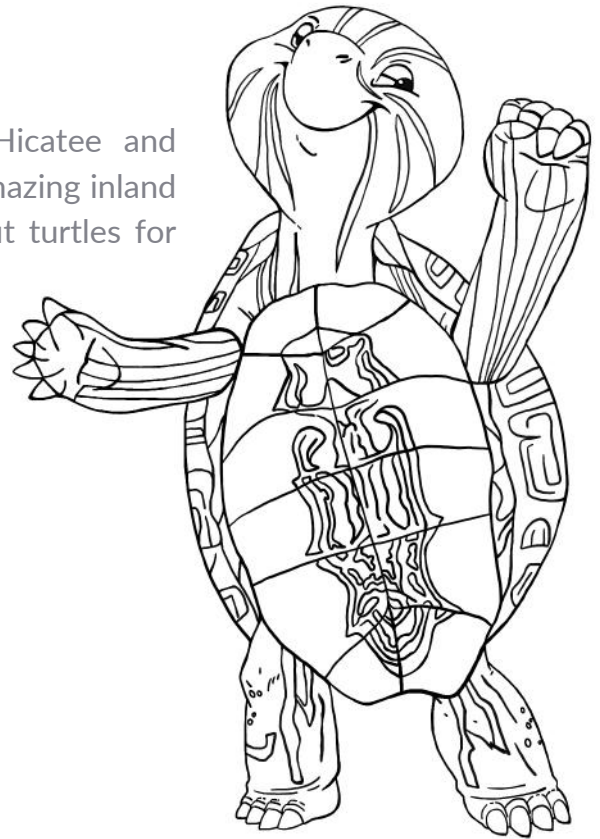


Facts about Belize's Turtles

This year's Hicatee Awareness Month is themed "Hicatee and Friends" and focuses on teaching about all of Belize's amazing inland turtles. Below are some fun and interesting facts about turtles for you to share with friends and family.



- ◆ There are nine (9) species of inland and freshwater turtles in Belize.
- ◆ There are four (4) species of sea turtles in Belize.
- ◆ More than half of the 476 living types of freshwater turtles, tortoises, sea turtles, and terrapins are threatened with extinction.
- ◆ Turtles are one of the most threatened groups of vertebrates on the planet along with primates.
- ◆ Only one turtle Belize is critically endangered - the Central American river turtle also called Hicatee. Critically endangered means that the species is threatened with extinction if immediate action isn't taken.
- ◆ Turtles spread seeds for plants, create habitat for other wildlife, and hold symbolic significance for many cultures.
- ◆ Chelonian pronounced /kə'lōnēən/ is a noun that means a reptile of the order Testudines; a turtle, terrapin, or tortoise.
- ◆ Turtles are both predators and prey.

