

# Galápagos Islands



The Galápagos Islands are in the Pacific ocean. Galápagos is the Spanish word for tortoise. The Galápagos Islands are famous for tortoises – giant tortoises!

These giant tortoises can weigh up to 250 kilogrammes. They can also live to be 100 years old or more!

Once upon a time, there were probably 100,000 giant tortoises. Nowadays, there are only about 15,000 left. Most of the tortoises were killed and eaten by pirates.

Now they are protected and live long, happy lives!

The Galápagos Islands are also home to many other rare and wonderful animals and plants. Maybe one day you will be lucky enough to visit them. ■

## CHECK-UP

- 1 What does the word 'galápagos' mean?
- 2 Why is it a good name for these islands?
- 3 Why did the pirates kill the tortoises?
- 4 How long can giant tortoises live?
- 5 How many giant tortoises still exist?

