

SEA★LIFE

Melbourne



Meet our turtles!



Green Sea Turtles

Colourful Shells:

Green sea turtles get their name from the colour of their body fat and cartilage, which can have a greenish hue. However, their shells are typically not green; they are usually shades of brown, olive, or black.

Herbivorous Diet:

These turtles are herbivores, meaning they mainly eat plants. They love to munch on seagrasses and algae found in shallow coastal waters. Their strong jaws help them tear through tough vegetation.

Migration Marvels:

Green sea turtles are known for their impressive migration patterns. Some populations migrate long distances between their feeding grounds and nesting beaches. For example, turtles that nest in the Caribbean might travel thousands of kilometres to reach their feeding grounds.

Nesting Rituals:

Female green sea turtles return to the same beaches where they were born to lay their eggs. This phenomenon is called 'natal homing'. The nesting process is fascinating to witness, as the mother turtle digs a hole in the sand to bury her eggs, then covers the nest before returning to the sea.

Endangered Species:

Green sea turtles are classified as endangered in many parts of the world due to threats such as habitat loss, poaching, and accidental capture in fishing gear. Efforts are underway globally to protect their nesting sites and conserve their populations.



Impressive Size:

Green sea turtles get their name from the colour of their body fat and cartilage, which can have a greenish hue. However, their shells are typically not green; they are usually shades of brown, olive, or black.

Loggerhead Turtles

Strong Jaws:

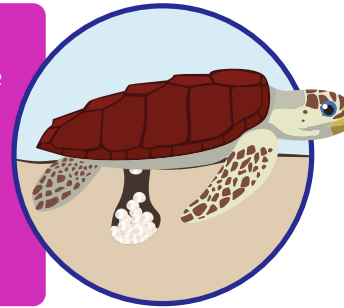
Loggerhead turtles have powerful jaws suited for their diet. Unlike green turtles that mainly eat plants, loggerheads are carnivorous and primarily feed on bottom-dwelling invertebrates like crabs, mollusks, and jellyfish. Their strong jaws help them crush the hard shells of their prey.

Distinctive Shell:

The shell of a loggerhead turtle is unique and easily recognisable. It is reddish-brown on top and yellowish underneath. The top part of the shell (carapace) has a slightly heart-shaped appearance, and it's covered in large scales.

1 Egg Stage:

The life cycle begins when a female loggerhead turtle comes ashore to lay her eggs. She digs a nest in the sand above the high tide line and lays around 100 to 120 eggs. After covering the nest with sand, she returns to the sea, leaving the eggs to incubate.

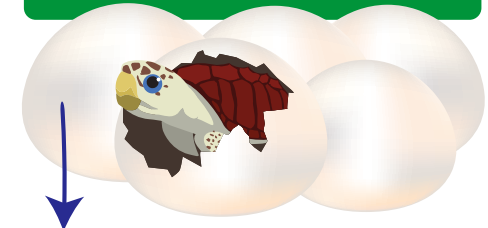


2 Incubation:

The eggs are left to incubate in the warmth of the sand. The incubation period typically lasts around 50 to 60 days, depending on the temperature of the sand. Warmer temperatures usually result in faster hatching.

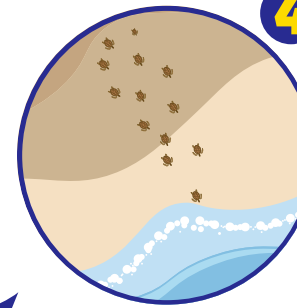
3 Hatching:

Once the incubation period is complete, the baby loggerhead turtles (called hatchlings) begin to emerge from their eggs. They use a specialised tooth called a caruncle to break out of the eggshell.



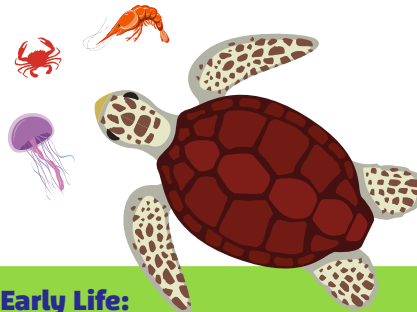
4 Dash to the Sea:

The hatchlings then make their way out of the nest and towards the ocean. This journey is crucial and dangerous, as they are vulnerable to predators such as birds and crabs during this time. They use the natural light of the horizon over the ocean to guide them towards the water.



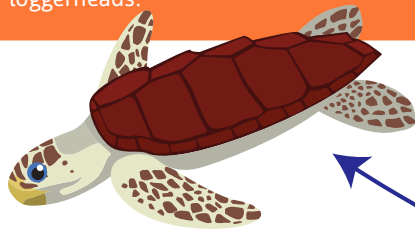
5 Early Life:

Once in the ocean, the young turtles embark on a journey of growth and survival. They spend their early years in the open ocean, feeding on small marine creatures like jellyfish, shrimp, and crabs.



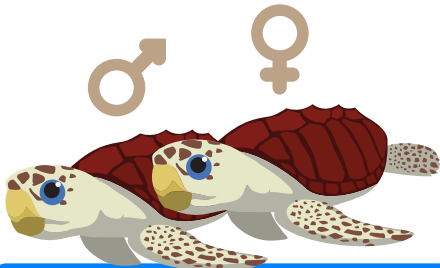
6 Juvenile Stage:

As the turtles grow older and larger, they transition to more coastal habitats. They start to feed on a wider variety of prey and begin to develop the distinctive features of adult loggerheads.



7 Adulthood and Mating:

Loggerhead turtles reach sexual maturity between 17 to 33 years of age. Once mature, they return to the beaches where they were born to mate and lay eggs, thus continuing the life cycle.



Loggerhead Life Cycle

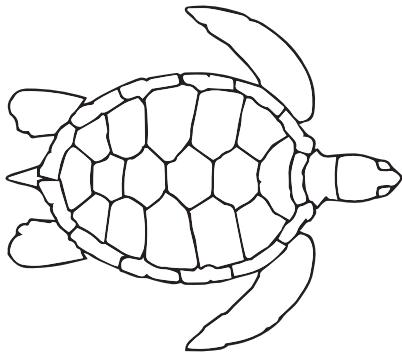
Turtle Rescue and Release

Turtle ID# _____

Sea Turtle Species:

- Green Loggerhead Flatback
 Hawksbill Leatherback Olive Ridley
 Kemp Ridley

Circle the location of injury



Treatments

- X-Ray Detangle Object removed

Cleared for release? Yes No

Food type received: _____

Release Time: _____ **Date:** _____

Signed: _____ **Name:** _____

Sea Turtle Recovery Menu

Herbivores - Green Turtle

- Seagrass
- Seaweed
- Bok Choy

Carnivores - Loggerhead Turtle, Olive Ridley Turtle

- Fish
- Crabs
- Sea Jellies

Omnivores - Flatback Turtle, Hawksbill Turtle

- Crabs
- Fish
- Shellfish
- Seaweed
- Jellyfish

Gelatinivores - Leatherback Turtle

- Sea Jellies

Some cool stories about some of our amazing turtles that call SEA LIFE home!



Dave and Chandler

Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)

These beautiful and cheeky boys arrived at SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium in early 2024 from SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium. They are over 30 years old and around 180kg in weight. These hefty giants are very inquisitive and always interested in what the divers are up to and hoping for a little back scratch. Dave and Chandler are fed around 2kg of various fish such as Australian Salmon, Silver Trevally, Tailor, Greasy Mackerel, Bonito, Pike, Yellowtail Scad and Sand Whiting.

These two are very hard to tell apart, but Chandler has a darker shell and Dave has a bump on his right front flipper. Loggerhead turtles can hold their breath for several hours allowing them to have a good sleep but generally during the day come up for air every 10 to 20 minutes.

Plugga

Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Plugga was found washed up on the beach as a hatchling in Coffs Harbour with an injured back right flipper. She was moved to the Dolphin Conservation Park in Coffs Harbour where she was cared for and learned to swim. She outgrew her exhibit and was moved to SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium in July 2020 and in early 2024 made SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium her new home.



Like Dave and Chandler, Plugga is also in her thirties, weighs 120kg and is 75cm long. Primarily herbivorous; Plugga gets 2.5kg of veggies daily. Her favourites are cos lettuce and bok choy. Other foods she eats are iceberg lettuce, capsicum, cabbage, leek, rocket, kale (which she hates).

See if you can find them all!

Sea turtles are older than dinosaurs with fossils dating back 150 million years!

The Leatherback turtle swims over 16,000 km every year!

Just like your bones, a turtle's shell is actually part of its skeleton. It's made up of over 50 bones which include the turtle's rib cage and spine.

Word Search

V	M	T	J	L	F	P	G	M	J	Y	S	H	X	U
C	G	Z	P	J	U	V	Z	Z	A	T	D	I	N	S
G	H	S	R	E	P	T	I	L	E	R	V	V	T	H
C	E	N	D	A	N	G	E	R	E	D	I	L	G	E
E	O	H	A	E	P	W	X	D	G	G	S	N	R	L
C	F	N	A	M	T	Z	I	C	S	I	B	H	E	L
O	J	L	S	T	F	B	Q	O	W	M	M	K	E	M
S	X	H	W	E	C	F	X	X	H	P	A	D	N	J
Y	V	M	C	T	R	H	H	S	K	M	K	L	N	A
S	F	N	E	Y	U	V	L	V	R	L	T	U	I	O
T	W	Q	S	S	V	R	A	I	U	H	W	X	T	K
E	H	S	N	S	W	S	T	T	N	Q	W	P	A	F
M	D	S	Y	X	X	R	E	L	I	G	T	D	B	R
Z	I	E	I	M	O	M	P	G	E	O	Y	I	N	M
I	M	A	Z	I	H	L	X	J	H	S	N	O	W	R

Can you find all the words?

Conservation
Hatchling
Marine

Ecosystem
Reptile
Green

Endangered
Turtle

Sea
Shell

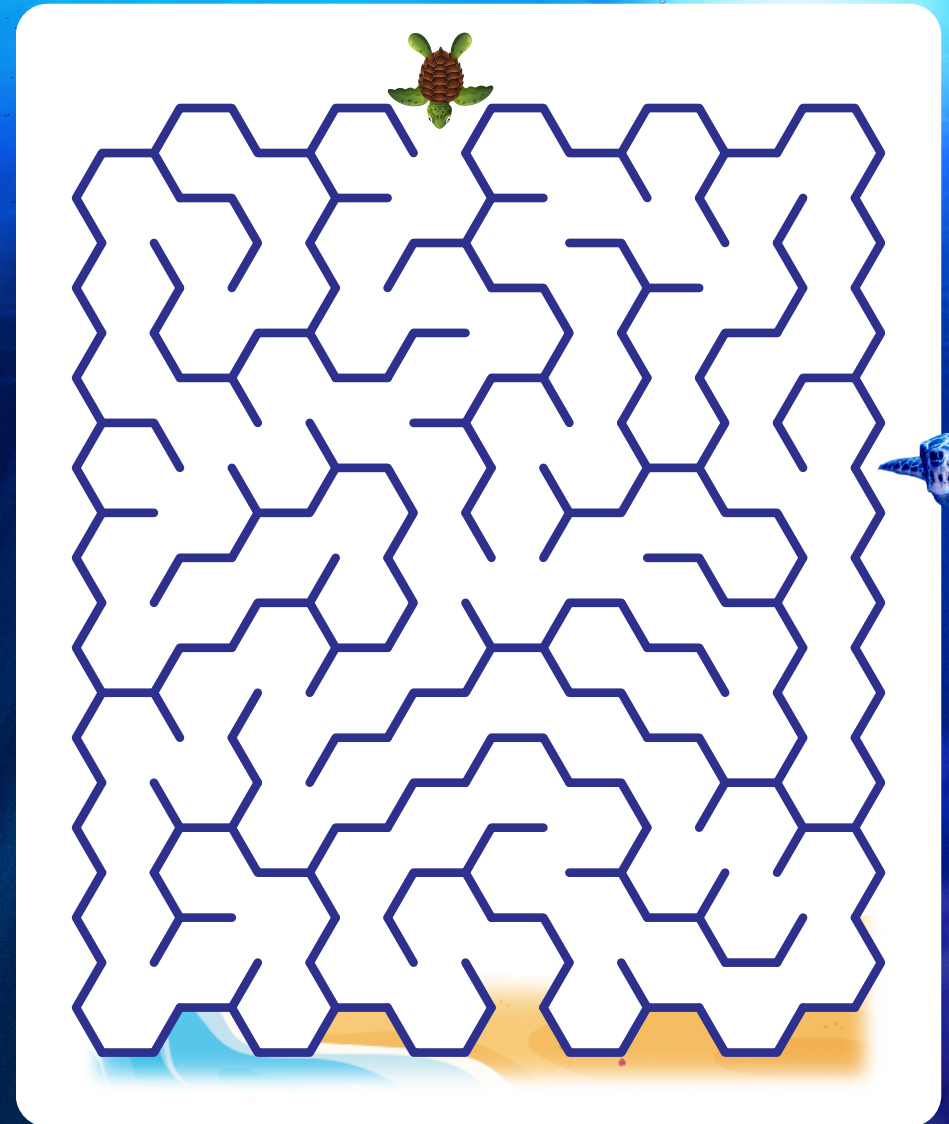
Spot The Difference

Can you spot 5 differences between the two pictures?



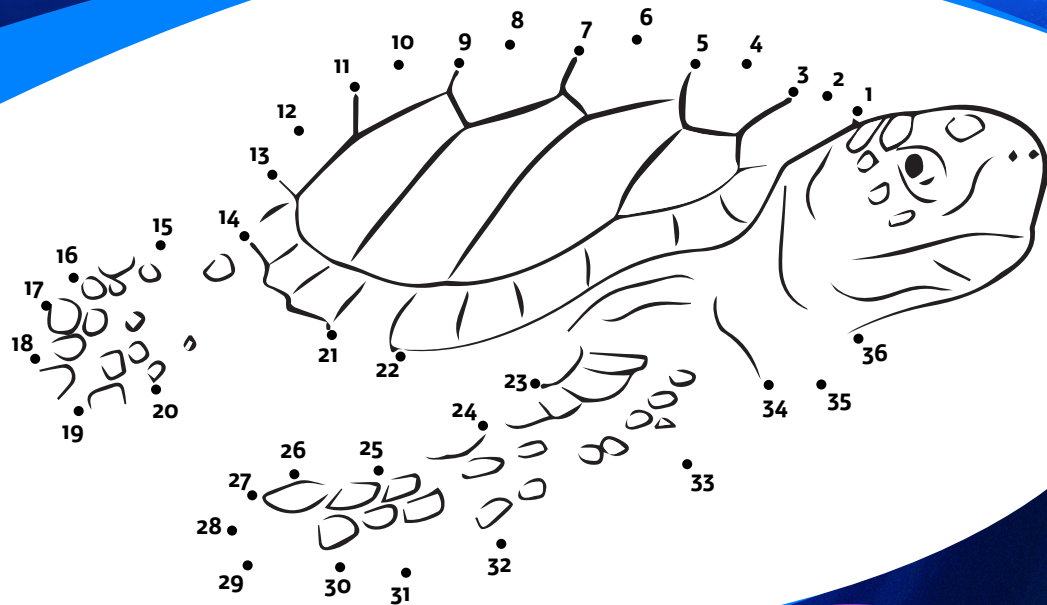
Help the Hatchling

Can you help the hatchling through the maze to get the ocean?



Join the dots!

Colour me!



Did you know that the temperature of the eggs in a turtle nest determines if the turtles become males or females? If the nest is below 27.7 degrees, the turtles will be males.

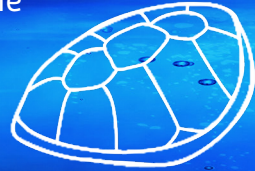


How to draw a turtle

1 Draw a shell



2 Fill in the detail



3 Draw a head



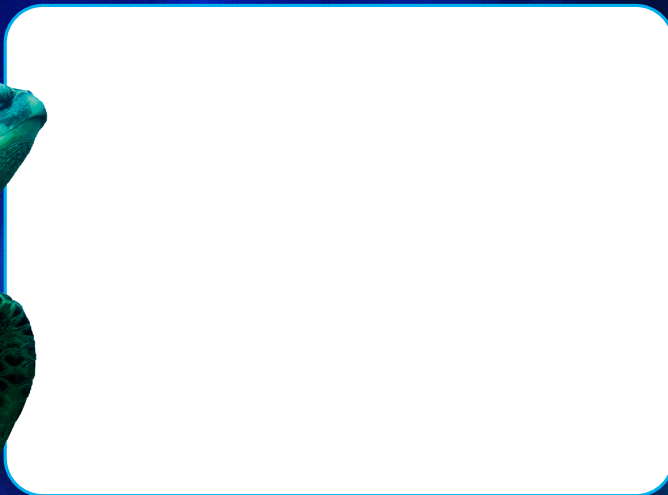
4 Draw the flippers



5. Add the detail



Now draw your own!



SEA LIFE TRUST

Protecting Our World's Oceans



Protecting the world's oceans

Since 2014, we've supported our global charity, the SEA LIFE Trust.

In that time, we have helped the SEA LIFE Trust to provide vital practical care for marine animals through their sanctuaries, to fund conservation projects and deliver campaigns that make a positive difference to marine habitat and wildlife across the world.

Since 2014, we've supported the Trust to help:

- new marine protected areas created
- reduce marine litter
- protect sea turtles
- rescue, rehabilitate and release hundreds of sick and injured seal pups
- create the world's first beluga whale sanctuary in Iceland.

We've already achieved a lot together and have plans to do even more in the future!

The SEA LIFE Trust currently has two marine animal sanctuaries, our world-first Beluga Whale Sanctuary in Iceland and our Cornish Seal Sanctuary in the UK.

Keep an eye out for how you can support their work on your SEA LIFE visit or scan the QR code now to donate.



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