



SEA★LIFE

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 sea grasses and algae found in shallow coastal waters. Their strong jaws help them tear through tough vegetation.

## Migration Marvels:

Sea green 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 kilometers to reach their feeding grounds.

## Nesting Rituals:

Female sea green 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:

Sea green 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.



# Loggerhead Turtles

## 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.

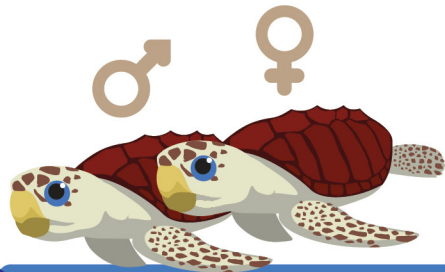
## Strong Jaws:

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.



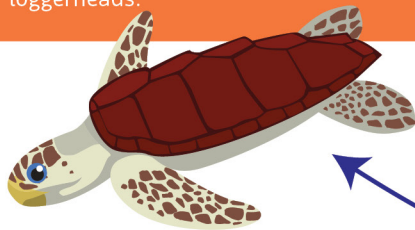


## 7 Adulthood and Mating:

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.

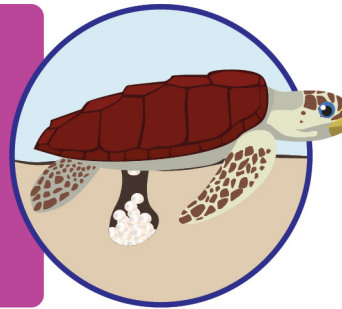
## 6 Juvenile Stage:

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.



## 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.

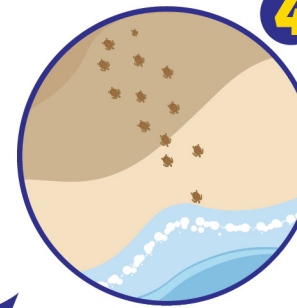
## 3 Hatching:

Once the incubation period is complete, the baby loggerhead turtles (called hatchlings) begin to emerge from their eggs. They use a specialized 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.



# Loggerhead Life Cycle



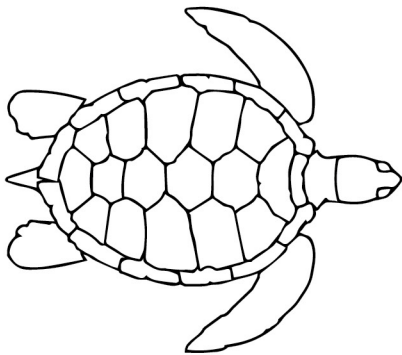
# Turtle Rescue and Release

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 Sealife Melbourne in early 2024 from Sydney Aquarium. They are approximately 32 years old and around 180 kg 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. These Loggerhead 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 the 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 Sealife Sydney in July 2020 and in early 2024 made Sealife Melbourne her new home.

She is approximately 34 years old, 120 kg and 75 cm long on her arrival. 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



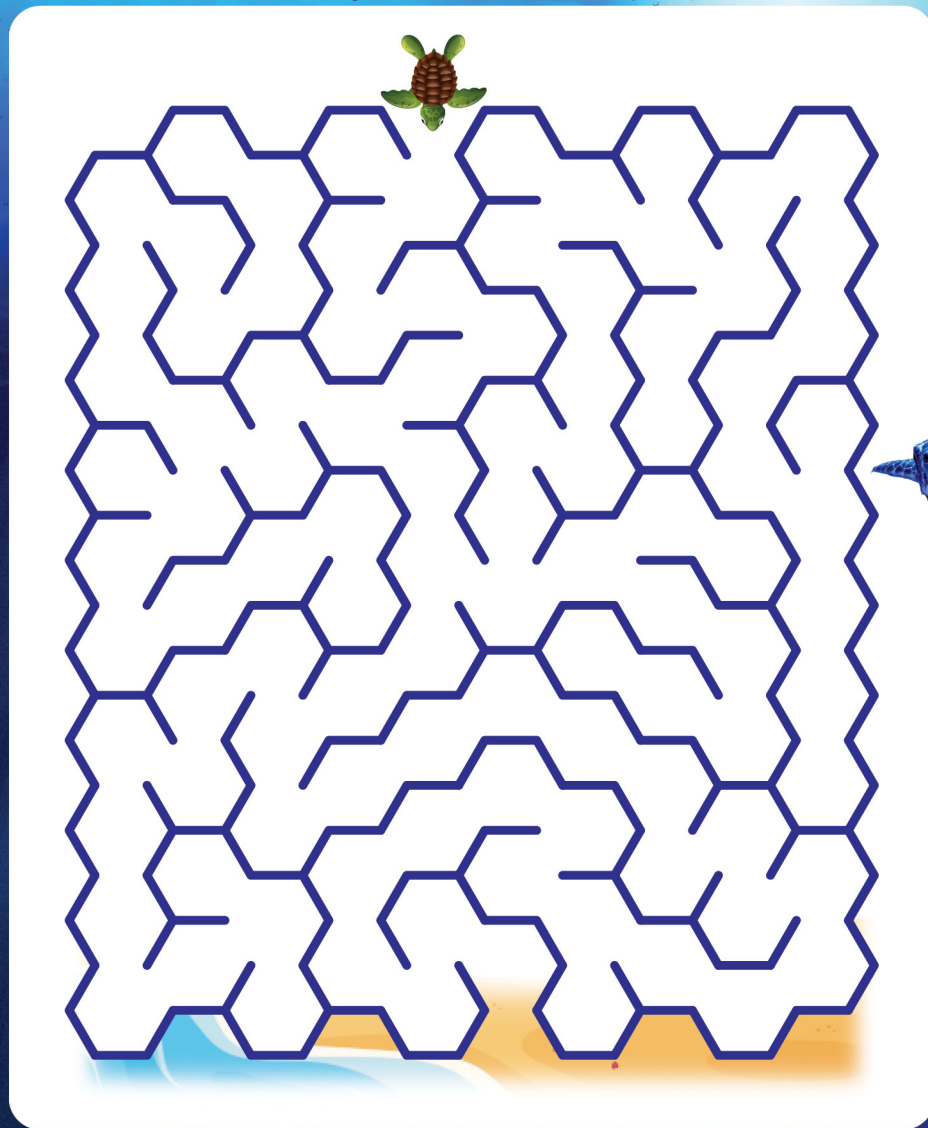
# Spot The Difference

Can you spot 5 differences between the two pictures?



# Spot The Difference

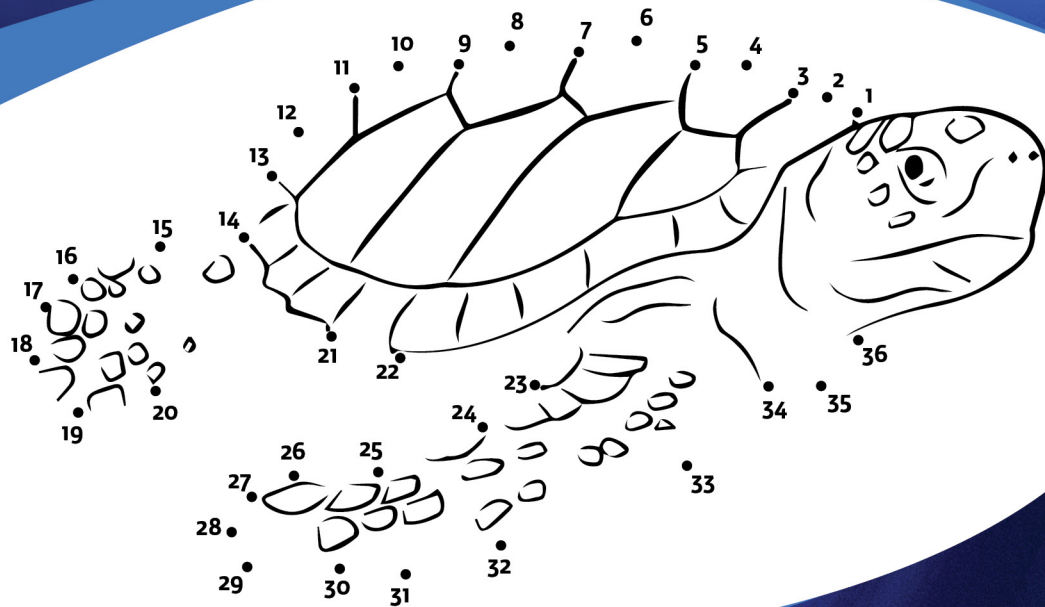
Can you help the hatchling through the maze to get the ocean?





Join the dots!

Colour me!



Did you know the temperature of the eggs in a turtle nest determines if they turn into boys or girl turtles? If the nest is below 27.7 degrees the turtles will be born male.





# How to draw a turtle.

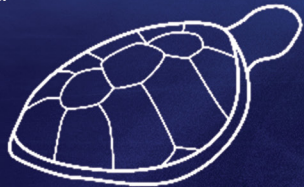
1 Draw a shell



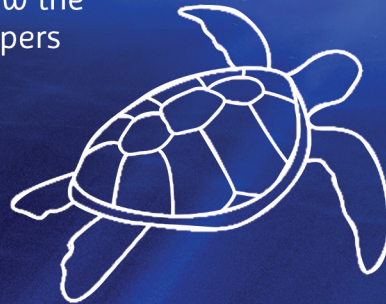
2 Fill in the detail



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.



**SEA LIFE**





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