

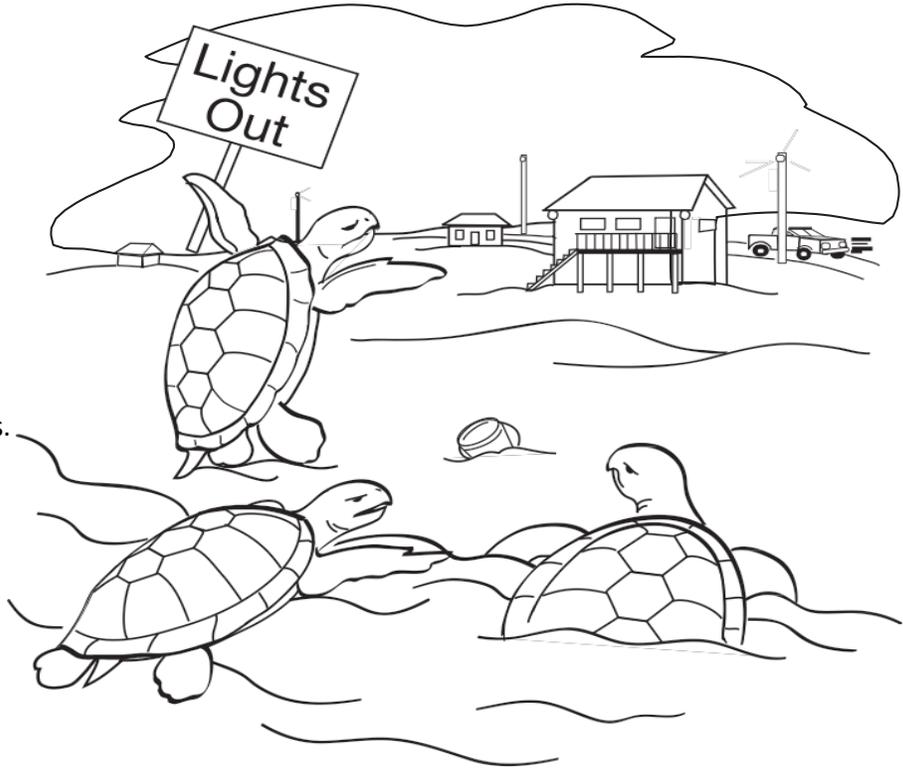


Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

What you can do to help

- Anyone who lives near a beach should turn lights off at night – especially those seen from the beach.
- Never leave beach chairs or other items out overnight. They can entrap nesting sea turtles or hatchlings, leading to their death.
- Never approach or take flash photos of turtles. Lights and noise can hinder turtles' ability to nest or find their way back to the sea.
- Keep oceans, bays and rivers pollution-free. Take a trash bag with you when you go to the beach and remove any trash you see.

Report injured or dead sea turtles, poaching of eggs or other wildlife emergencies. Call the Wildlife Alert Hotline, 1-888-404-FWCC (3922)

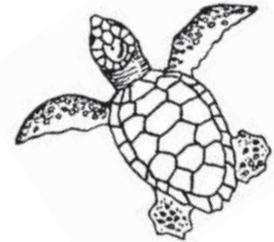
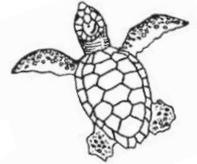
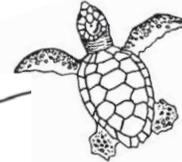
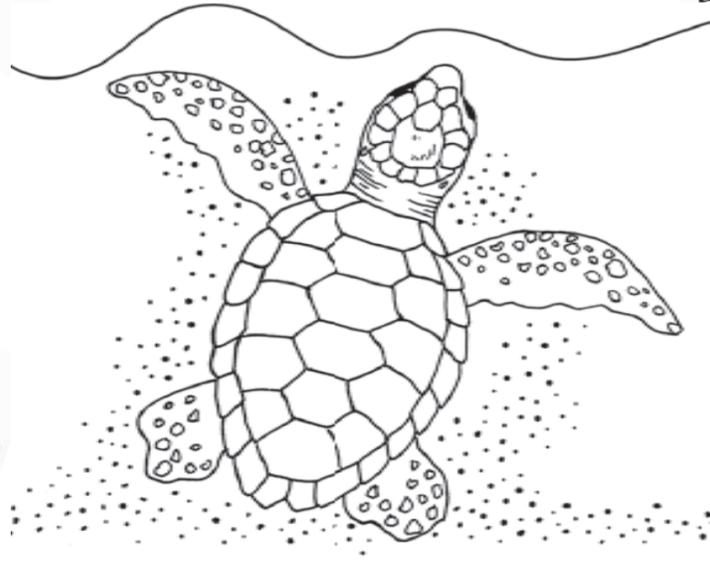
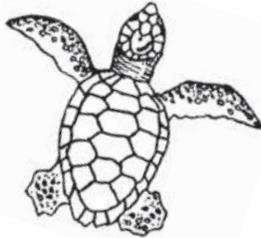
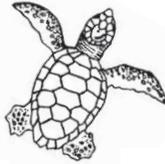




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Sea turtles are among the oldest creatures on earth and have remained essentially unchanged for 110 million years.

In most sea turtles, the top shell, or carapace, is composed of many bones covered with horny scales or "scutes."



Turtles are toothless but have powerful jaws to crush, bite, and tear their food.

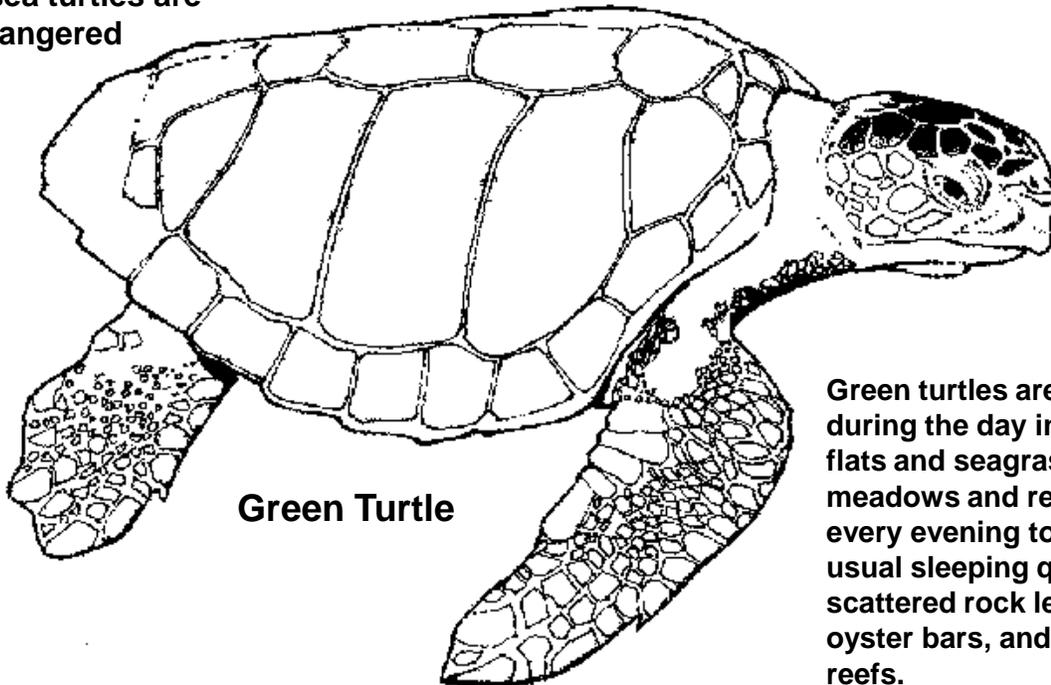


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Green Turtles, as all sea turtles are endangered

Unlike most sea turtles, adult green turtles are herbivorous (plant eaters), feeding on sea grasses and algae.

Green turtles weigh an average of 350 pounds and have a small head for its body size. Its oval-shaped upper shell averages 3.3 feet in length and is olive-brown with darker streaks running through it; its lower shell, or plastron, is yellow.



Green Turtle

Green turtles are found during the day in shallow flats and seagrass meadows and return every evening to their usual sleeping quarters—scattered rock ledges, oyster bars, and coral reefs.

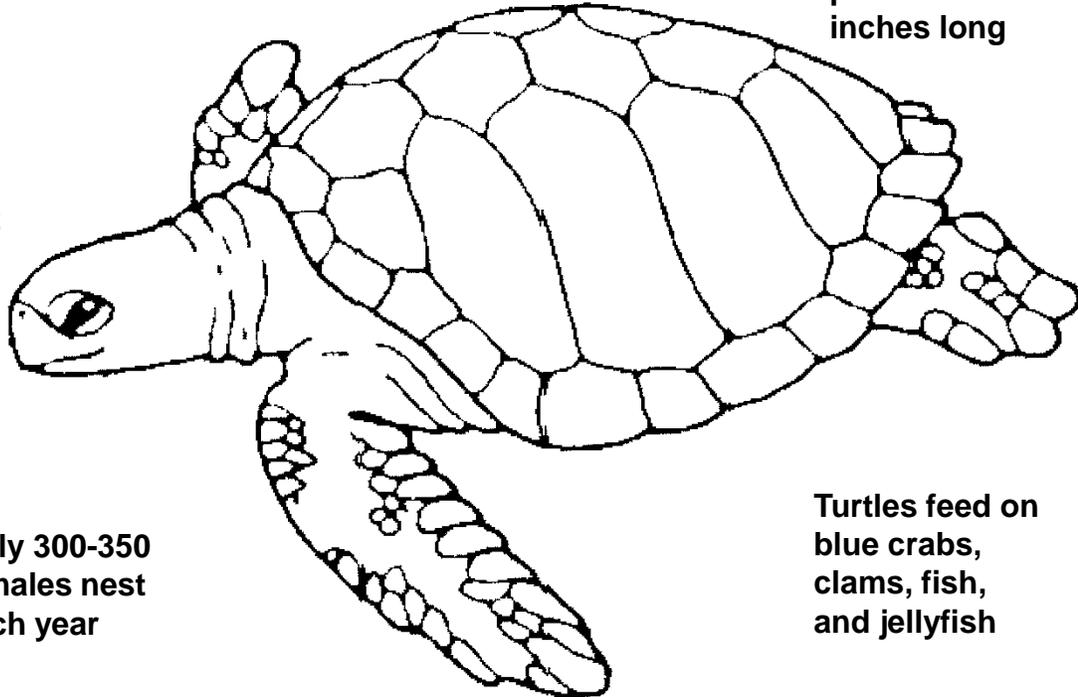


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Kemp's Ridley Turtle

Adults weigh 85-100 pounds and are 24-30 inches long

Kemp's Ridley Turtles are the rarest and most endangered of the sea turtles; as well as the smallest sea turtle species.



Only 300-350 females nest each year

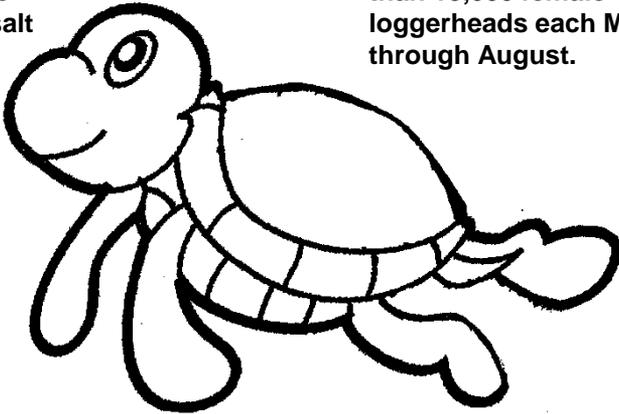
Turtles feed on blue crabs, clams, fish, and jellyfish



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Female sea turtles often appear to be weeping as they nest; the main purpose of these tears is to remove salt from the turtle's body.

The contiguous beaches of Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach counties are the most important loggerhead nursery areas in the Western Hemisphere, attracting more than 15,000 female loggerheads each May through August.



Leatherback turtles can dive deeper than any other air-breathing animal except perhaps sperm whales and elephant seals.

