Sea Turtles

By Kristen Ratcliff

Table of Contents

Turtle Facts	3-4
Journey to the Ocean	5-6
Life in the Ocean	7-8
Protect the Sea Turtles	9-10

Chapter 1: Turtle Facts

People all over the world and from many different cultures consider sea turtles to be very special animals. Sea turtles are the largest turtles in the world. The smallest sea turtles weigh around 100 pounds. The largest sea turtles can sometimes weigh as much 1,300 pounds. They can grow to be the size of a bathtub!

Turtle Facts

Sea turtles are **reptiles**. Reptiles are cold blooded animals. This means that the temperature of their bodies changes depending on their surroundings. Reptiles are covered with scaly skin and breathe air through their lungs, just like humans. Reptiles also lay eggs.

Cold-blooded Animals	**Warm-blooded Animals**
• Sea turtles • Snakes • Lizards • Frogs	• Dogs • Elephants • Humans • Horses

Chapter 2: Journey to the Ocean

Female sea turtles lay their eggs every 2 to 5 years. They **migrate** hundreds or even thousands of miles until they reach the perfect beach to lay their eggs. They drag their heavy bodies out of the water and onto the sand. They dig a hole about 20 inches deep and into that hole they lay about 100 small, round eggs. Then, the mother covers the eggs with sand to protect them and drags herself back into the ocean to swim away. She will never see her babies.

Journey to the Ocean

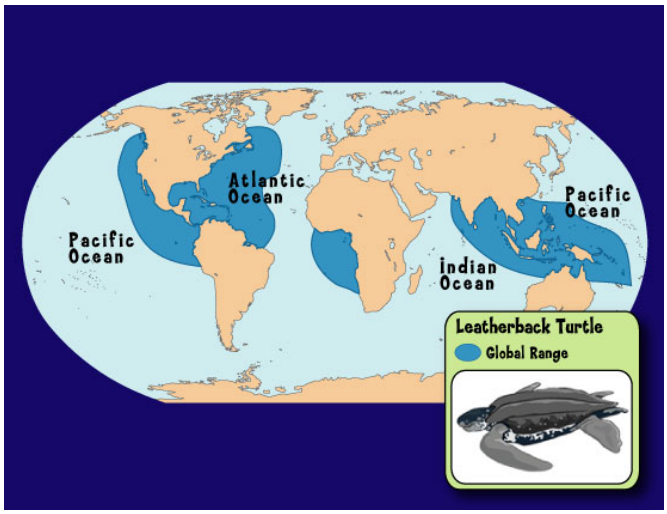
Many of the eggs that the female sea turtles lay will never hatch. The baby turtles that do hatch have a long journey ahead of them. Once they hatch, they must first dig themselves out of the hole where the eggs were buried. As soon as they are free, they must find their way to the ocean. The journey across the beach is a long one and the baby turtles must watch out crabs, seagulls, and other **predators** who may like to eat them.

Chapter 3: Life in the Ocean

Once the baby turtles reach the ocean, they must find food. While they are still small, sea turtles eat **plankton**, which are very small animals that float in the water. As they begin to grow and get bigger, sea turtles start to eat seaweed, crabs, shrimp, and even jellyfish. It takes between 10 and 50 years for sea turtles to reach their full size.

Chapter 3: Life in the Ocean

There are seven different kinds of sea turtles. The two largest of all of these are called the Loggerhead Turtles and the Leatherback Turtle. The other types of sea turtles are the Green Turtle, the Hawksbill Turtle, the Kemp's, Ridley Turtle, the Olive, and the Flatback Turtle. Sea turtles live all over the world. Each year they travel hundreds of miles all over the ocean looking for food. No matter how far away they may be, the female turtles always return to lay their eggs on the beach where they were born. No one knows how the turtles remember how to get there.



Chapter 4: Protect the Sea Turtles

Sea turtles are an **endangered** species. This means that there are not very many of them left on Earth. Pollution is one reason so many sea turtles are dying out. The oceans are full of fishing nets that the turtles could get caught in plastic bags and other trash that would make them sick if they were eaten. People have built houses or stores on the beaches where sea turtles used to lay their eggs. Some people hunt sea turtles for their meat.

This sea turtle has been caught in a net.

Protect the Sea Turtles

The sea turtle is a very special animal. If steps are not taken to protect sea turtles from pollution and from being hunted, very soon there may be no more sea turtles left on Earth. There are many wonderful groups of people all over the world that are trying their hardest to keep this beautiful animal safe.

Glossary

Endangered: At risk of becoming extinct.

Migrate: To move from one part of the earth to another at certain times of the year.

Plankton: Small animals and bits of plants that float in the ocean.

Pollution: anything that is harmful to a certain place.

Predators: an animal that hunts smaller, weaker animals.

Reptile: Reptiles are cold blooded animals which are covered in scales and lay eggs.

Works Referenced

"Turtle and fish" http://freshwatertuttle.wikispaces.com /CarlyleCoastal Seas

"Baby sea turtles" http://mvscience.wikispaces.com/file/view/baby-sea-turtles.jpg/70165919/468x319/baby-sea-turtles.jpg

"Sea turtle hatching" http://media.tumblr.com/ tumblr_llcbt2d i6M1qfu4j7.jpg

"Nest" http://cache2.allpostersimages.com/p/LRG/38/3811 / F3SIF00Z/ posters/dirscherl-reinhard-green-sea-turtle-eggs-in-a-nest-on-a-beach-chelonia-mydas-pacific-ocean-borneo.jpg

"Swimming Turtle" https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevedunleavy /6698223639/

"Turtle Caught in Net" http://indiasendangered.com/uv-light-emitting-diode-to-save-endangered-turtles-from-fish-nets/

"Sea Turtle Map" http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/ topics/field_guide/maps/assets/leatherback_turtle.jpg

"Sea Turtles" World Wildlife. 2015

"Sea Turtles: An Overview" Sea Turtle Conservatory. 2015

Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a *grade 2 topic or subject area.*

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.5

Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.6

Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.

This e-book and any prints are released under a CC BY 3.0 license by the author.

This means that you are free to share, remix, transform, and build upon this book as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author.

Included works (e.g., images and other media) may have separate licensing requirements, and this release does not supersede or replace those requirements.

This e-book template is provided under a CC BY 3.0 license by the University of Idaho College of Education. If you use, share, remix, or transform this template, you should include this page at the end of your book.

University of Idaho
College of Education