

MEET THE SEA TURTLE

ABOUT ME

I'm a sea turtle. I live in the ocean and spend most of my time swimming and looking for food. I'm a very good swimmer and can hold my breath for a long time, sometimes up to five hours!

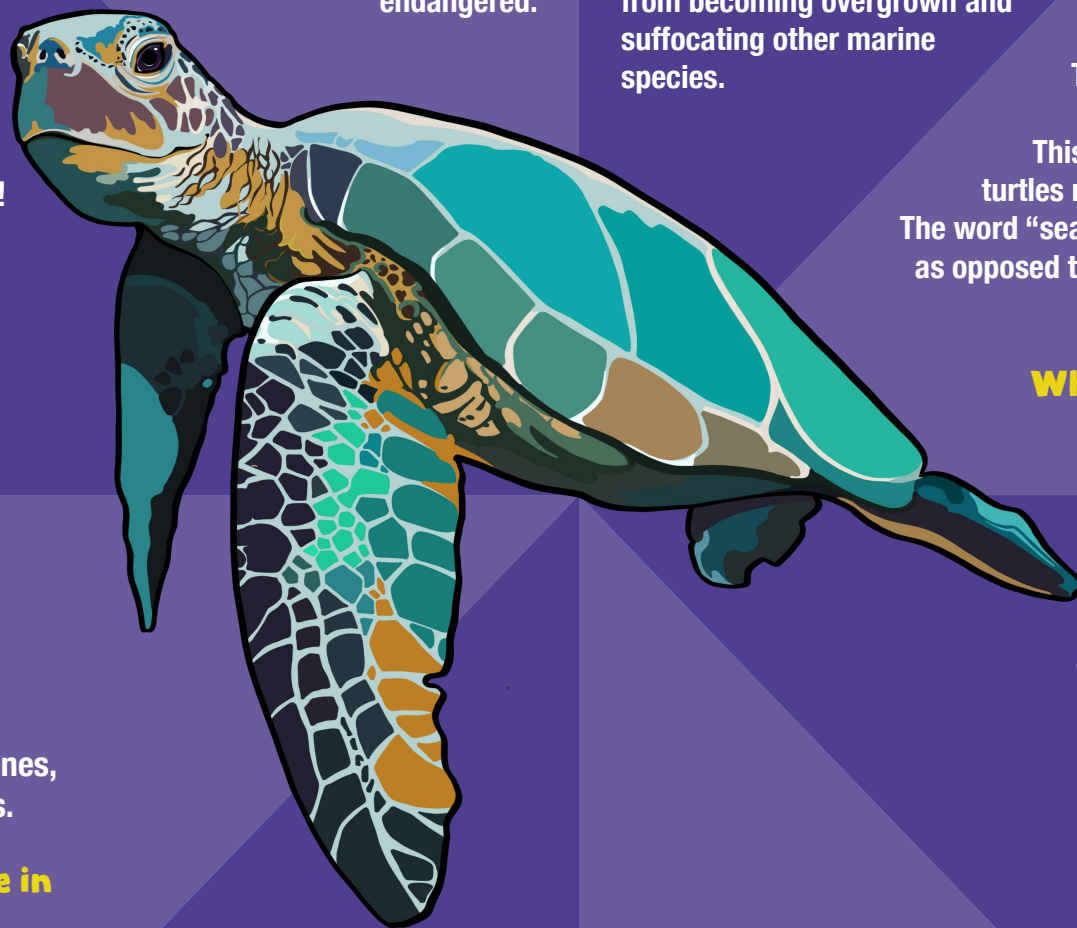
I have special glands near my eyes that help me get rid of excess salt from the ocean water I drink. This is important because too much salt can be harmful to me.

I'm one of the oldest living creatures on the planet, and have been around for over 100 million years! I've seen a lot of changes in the ocean over the years, and some of them have not been good. Pollution and hunting have put my species in danger, and many of us are now considered endangered.

DID YOU KNOW?

We live for a long time!
We can live for between 30-50 years!

Who is the oldest person you know?

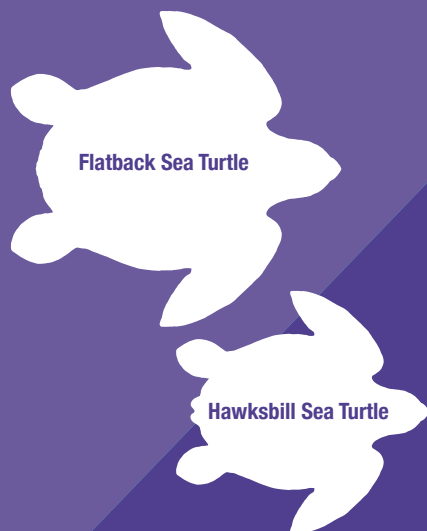


DID YOU KNOW?

Our Shells grow

Our shells are made up of over 50 bones, including the spine and grow with us.

How many bones do you have in your body?



Flatback Sea Turtle

Hawksbill Sea Turtle

TOP THREATS

We are threatened by hunters and poachers who harvest us for our eggs, skin, and shells. Plastic has become a terrible problem for us, as it looks so much like jellyfish! We are also killed when we get caught in fishing nets and other man-made debris.

WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT

We play a vital role in the ecosystem of the ocean. As a sea turtle, I eat jellyfish, seagrass, and other marine life. This may not sound like a big deal, but it actually helps keep the ocean clean.

You see, jellyfish can multiply quickly and overpopulate certain areas of the ocean. If there are too many jellyfish, they can become a problem for other marine life and even humans who like to swim in the ocean. By eating jellyfish, my species helps keep their population in check.

Seagrass is also important for the ocean because it provides a habitat for many different types of marine life. By eating seagrass, I help keep it from becoming overgrown and suffocating other marine species.

MY NAMES

My name, '**SEA TURTLE**' comes from the fact that we live in the sea. The word "turtle" comes from the Latin word "turtur," which means "turtle dove."

This is because early explorers thought that sea turtles made a sound similar to that of a turtle dove. The word "sea" refers to the fact that we live in the ocean, as opposed to other types of turtles that live on land or in freshwater habitats.

Where does your name come from?

WHAT WE LIKE TO EAT

We are **HERBIVORES** as adults although as hatchlings, we are **OMNIVORES**.

Our diet consists primarily of algae, seagrasses, and seaweed. Green turtles have a finely serrated (sawlike) beak that allows us to scrape algae off rocks and tear grasses and seaweeds.

Do you like to eat seafood?

MY FAMILY

We return to the same beach every time we are ready to lay eggs, and often return to a few hundred metres of the same spot! We usually lay 100-125 eggs per nest and will nest multiple times, about two weeks apart, over several months. As soon as the eggs hatch (roughly 2 months later), the hatchlings dig out of our nest. Once they emerge, they have to hurry to the sea to make their way offshore into the open ocean. We face many threats, at first but those that survive to become adults are decades old.