

See if you can help Mother Turtle and her Hatchlings find their way to suitable habitat.

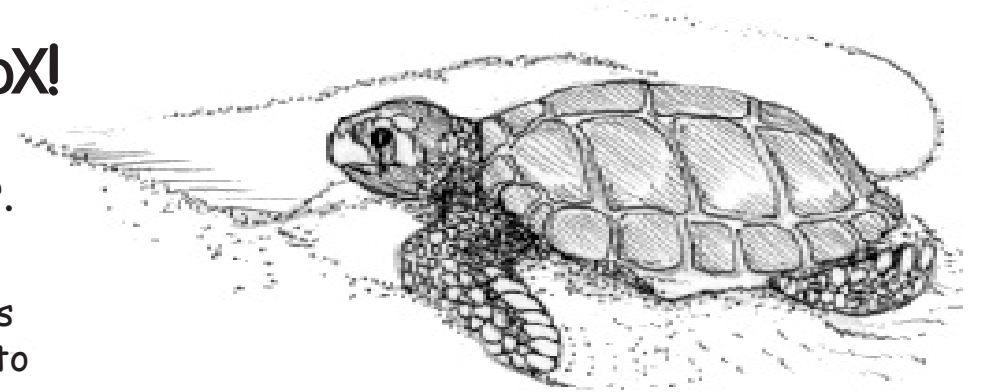
Mother Turtle is trying to find a dark, quiet nesting beach on which to lay a nest. Her Hatchlings must make it to a healthy ocean habitat where they can grow up safely. Beware of all the potential threats that can keep them from reaching their destinations.

Time to add a little color to this sea turtle's life.
Use crayons, markers or colored pencils to color in this drawing.



Welcome to
Anna Maria Island
Sea Turtles nest
from May to October.

We hope you enjoy our beautiful beaches and waters during your stay. In addition to being a great place to enjoy the sun and surf, our beaches are important nesting areas for sea turtles and our dunes are home to many unique plants and animals. During your stay, please help us protect our coastal habitats and wildlife.












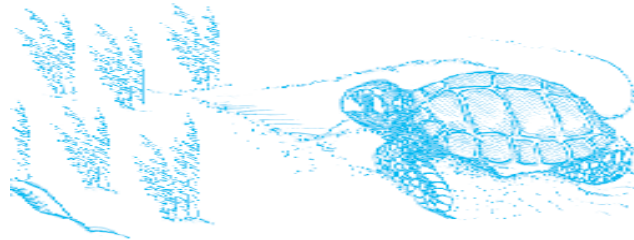
For More Information:
Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch
PO Box 1114, Holmes Beach, FL 34218
(941) 301-8434
www.islandturtlewatch.com

Sea Turtle Conservancy
www.conserveturtles.org



You can help protect these sea turtles and their coastal habitat!

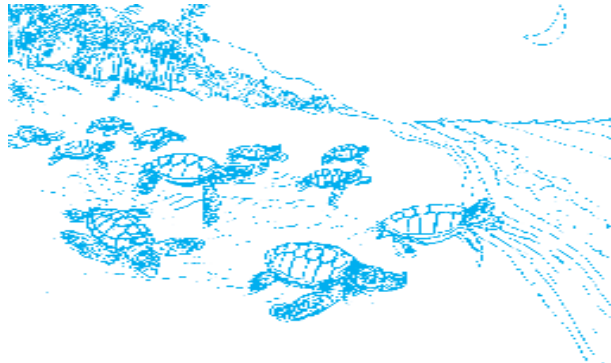
-  It is against the law to touch or disturb nesting sea turtles, hatchlings, or their nests. Sea turtles are protected by both state and federal laws.
-  Avoid using flashlights or flash photography while on the beach at night.
-  Turn off outside lights and shield indoor lights from shining directly onto the beach at night. Lights disturb nesting turtles and hatchlings.
-  Avoid disturbing marked sea turtle nests.
-  Make sure to take your trash with you when you leave the beach.
-  When crossing a dune, please use designated cross overs and walk ways. Do not climb over the dunes or disturb the dune vegetation.
-  If you observe a nesting turtle, do not touch her, handle the eggs, or put any foreign objects into the nest. You could interrupt the nesting process, introduce bacteria to the nest or injure the eggs.
-  Don't disturb tracks left by turtles. Researchers use the tracks to identify the type of turtle that made the tracks and to locate and protect the nest.
-  Fill in your holes and flatten sand castles before leaving the beach so they don't pose a hazard to sea turtles.



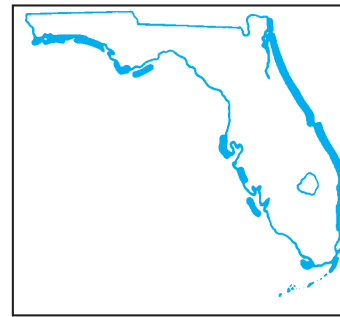
A female loggerhead lays about 120 eggs each nest. She will return to the beach to nest between 5 and 7 times during the summer.

Sea Turtle Fun Facts

Sea turtle eggs incubate for about 2 months. The hatchlings emerge from the sand at the same time and head for the ocean, moving towards the night sky over the ocean and away from darkness.



Florida's Beach and Dune Ecosystem



Florida is a unique state, containing nearly 1,200 miles of diverse coastline home to a wide variety of plant and animal species, including many endangered and threatened species. The beach and dune ecosystem is the most common coastal habitat, covering approximately two-thirds of Florida's coastline.

Sea Turtle Vocabulary

Carapace - hard outer shell on the back of a sea turtle

Plastron - belly of the sea turtle

Scute - scales on a sea turtle shell

Hatchling - baby sea turtle

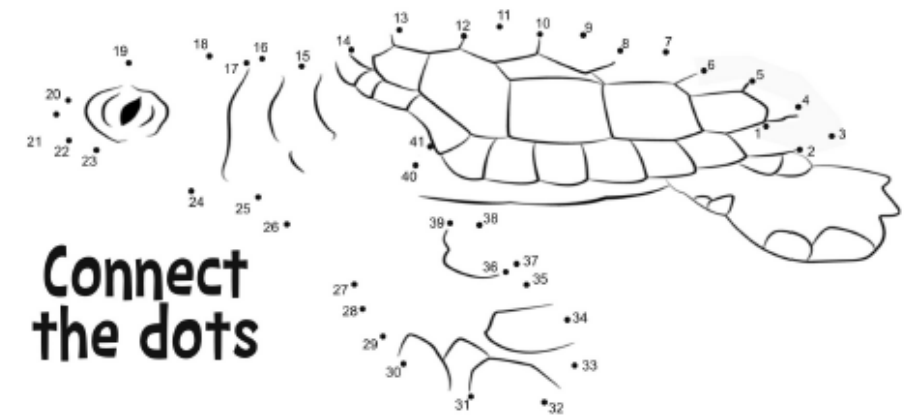
Flipper - the paddle-like limbs of a sea turtle

Clutch - a group of sea turtle eggs

Herbivore - an animal that eats only plants (like a green sea turtle)

Carnivore - an animal that eats other animals

Omnivore - an animal that eats both plants and animals (like loggerhead sea turtles)



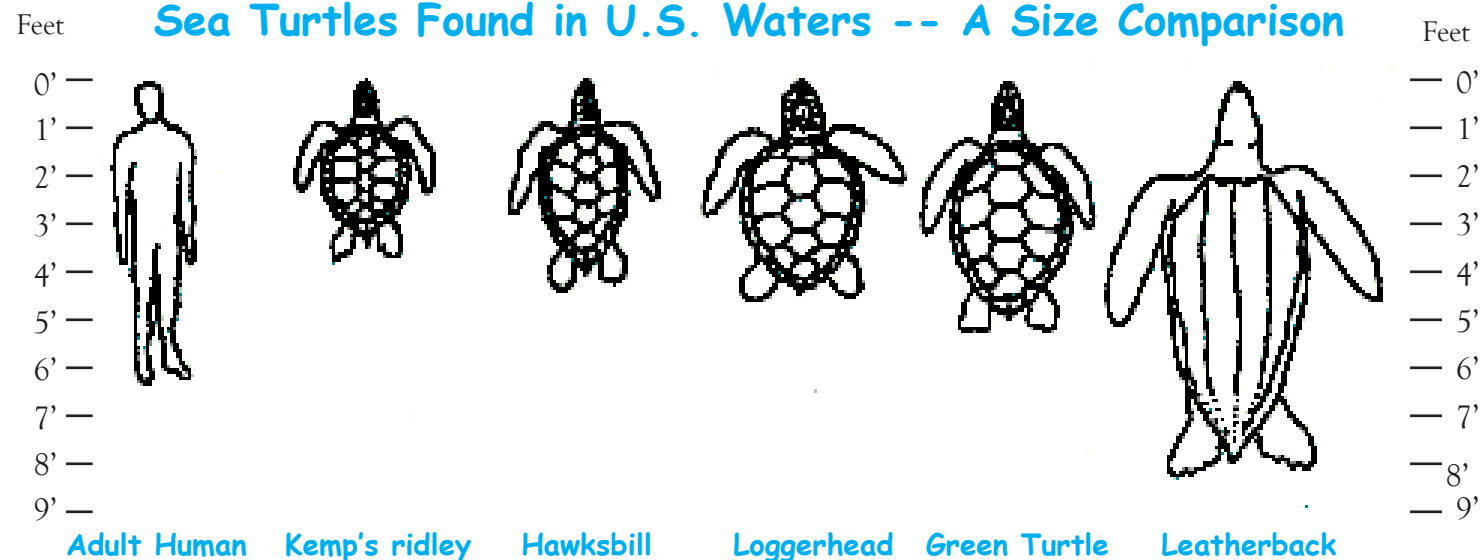
Connect the dots

Sea Turtle Word Search

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

Carapace	Reptile	Hatchlings
Herbivore	Hind flippers	Foreflippers
Nesting	Carnivore	Leatherback

Sea Turtles Found in U.S. Waters -- A Size Comparison



Original design was funded by a grant from the Sea Turtle Grants Program, which is funded by the sale of Florida Sea Turtle License Plate. Most artwork was hand-drawn by Deirdre Hyde. The sea turtle size comparison was adapted from one prepared by Earth Island Institute.