

SEA★LIFE

Sydney

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

Migration Marvels:

Green sea 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 kilometres to reach their feeding grounds.

Nesting Rituals:

Female green sea 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:

Green sea 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.



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.



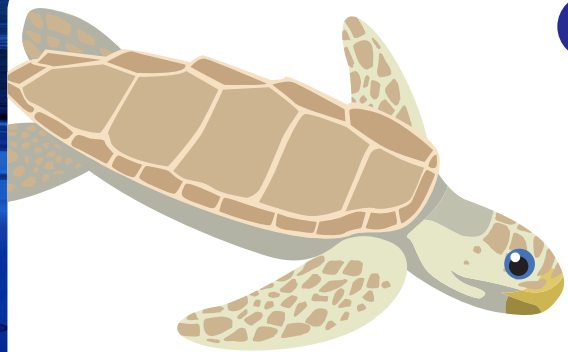
Flatback Turtles

Unique to Australia:

Flatback turtles are found only in the waters around Australia and nearby coastal regions. They get their name from their flatter shell compared to other sea turtles. Unlike other sea turtles, the flatback's shell has softer edges and is unusually flat and smooth. This shape helps them glide easily through shallow coastal waters.

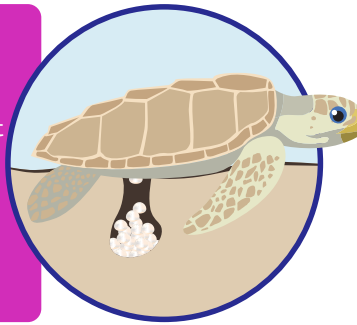
Diet and Feeding:

Flatback turtles are omnivores. They enjoy a varied diet including soft corals, sea cucumbers, jellyfish, molluscs, prawns, and seaweed. At SEA LIFE Sydney, they enjoy a wide variety of foods, with squid being a favourite!



1 Egg Stage:

The life cycle begins when a female flatback turtle comes ashore to nest on sandy Australian beaches. She digs a nest above the high tide line and lays around 50 large eggs, fewer than most other sea turtle species.



2 Incubation:

The eggs incubate in warm sand for around 45 to 55 days. The temperature of the sand helps determine whether the hatchlings develop as male or female.

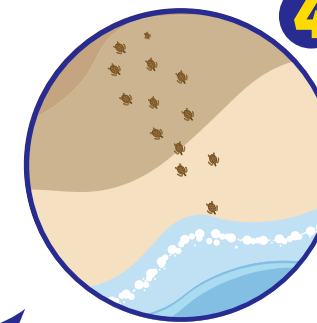
3 Hatching:

When the time is right, the hatchlings use a special temporary tooth, called a caruncle, to break out of their shells.



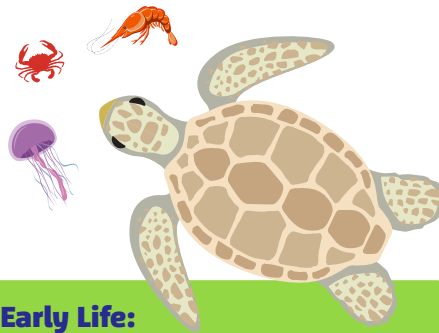
4 Dash to the Sea:

The hatchlings emerge mostly at night and make a dangerous journey to the ocean, avoiding predators like birds and crabs. They instinctively move towards the glow of the horizon over the sea.



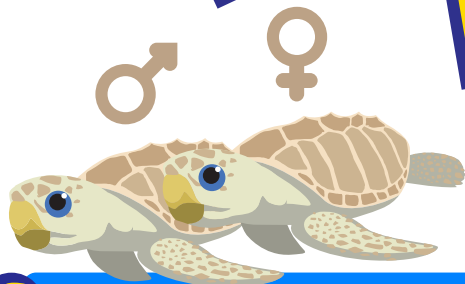
5 Early Life:

Unlike many other sea turtles, flatback hatchlings remain in coastal waters rather than drifting into the open ocean. This coastal lifestyle continues into adulthood.



6 Adulthood and Breeding:

Flatback turtles reach sexual maturity at around 20–30 years of age. Adult females return to the beaches where they were born to nest, continuing the cycle.



Flatback Turtle Life Cycle

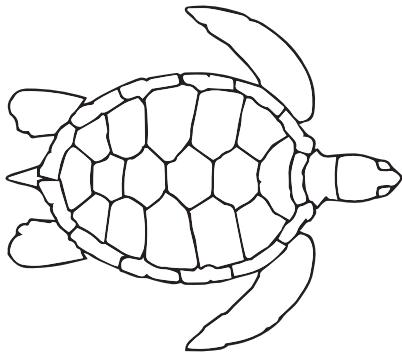
Turtle Rescue and Release

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

Dottie

Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Dottie was first discovered in August 2019 at Lake Macquarie, floating after a suspected boat strike that left her with a collapsed lung. Rescued by Australian Seabird Rescue, she spent nine months in care, during which she received an autologous blood transfusion to help treat the lung injury and underwent air aspirations to release excess air trapped beneath her carapace.

In late May 2020, Dottie was successfully released at Norah Head. However, by late July, she was spotted again in Lake Macquarie, floating beneath a jetty. This time, she was transferred to Sydney Taronga Zoo for further care and soon after, moved to SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium.

**Some cool stories
about some of our
amazing turtles that
call SEA LIFE home!**

See
if you can
find them
all!

Moana & Thorpey

Flatback Sea Turtle (*Natator depressus*)

Meet Moana and Thorpey, our adventurous Flatback sea turtles! Since their early days back in 2017, as hatchlings at SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium, they have been growing big and strong! In late 2024, they made the journey north to Sydney to take up residence in our refreshed Day and Night on the Reef Oceanarium. They enjoy a wide variety of food items, with squid being their favourite.

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

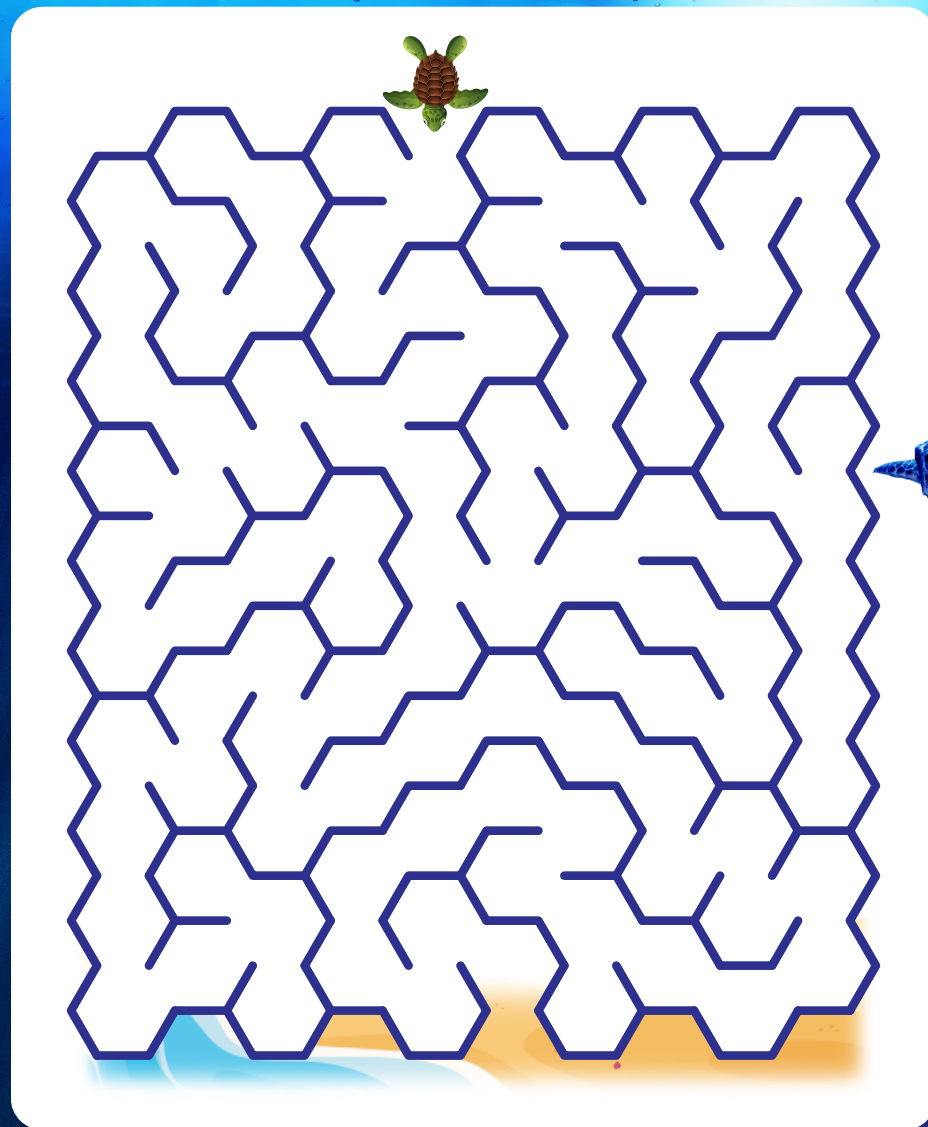
Spot The Difference

Can you spot 5 differences between the two pictures?



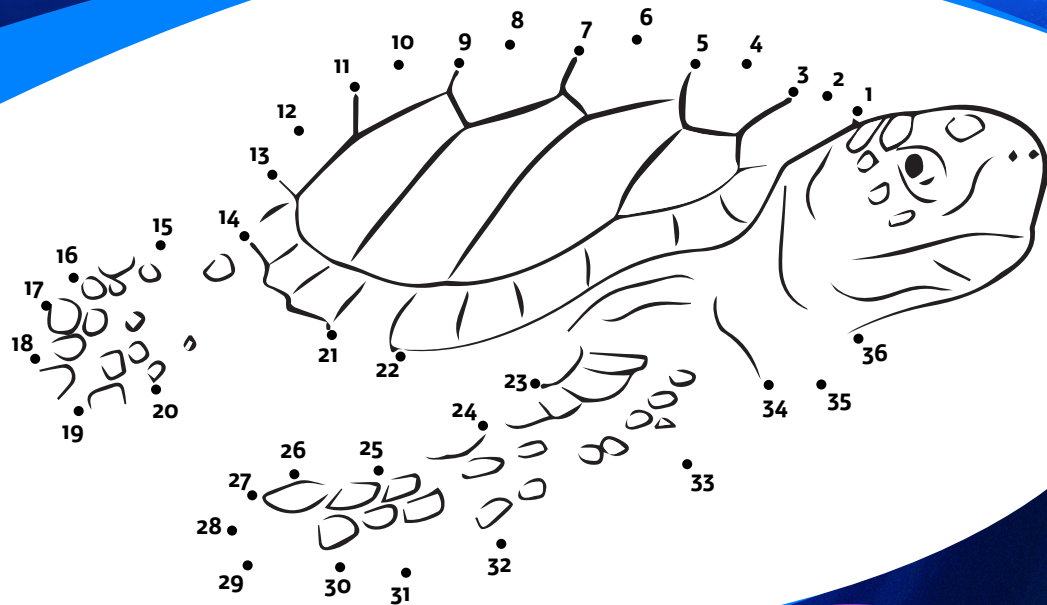
Help the Hatchling

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



Join the
dots!

Colour
me!



Did you know that the temperature of the eggs in a turtle nest determines if the turtles become males or females? If the nest is below 27.7 degrees, the turtles will be males.

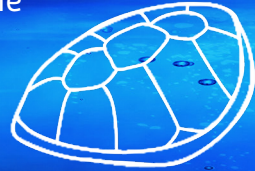


How to draw a turtle

1 Draw a shell



2 Fill in the detail



3 Draw a head



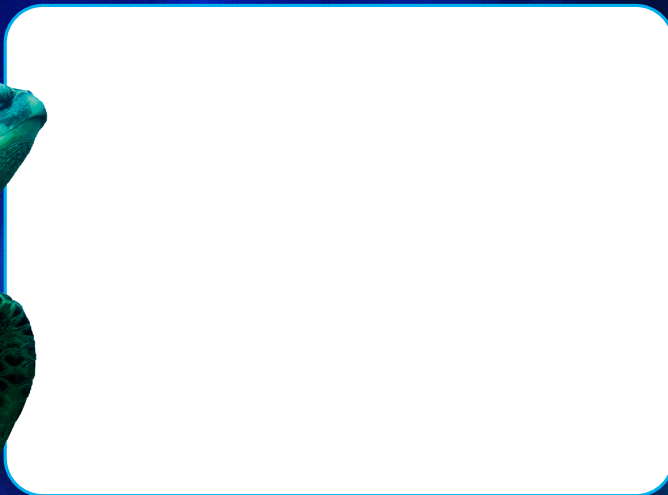
4 Draw the flippers



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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