

Turtles

Turtles have been swimming the world's oceans for **more than 200 million years**. This is their story.

Latin name: Chelonioida (Marine Turtle)

Disposition: Chilled-out



Species

The Great Barrier Reef is home to six of the world's seven marine turtle species.



Olive ridley turtle (smallest)

Loggerhead turtle

Hawksbill turtle

Flatback turtle

Green turtle

Leatherback turtle (largest)

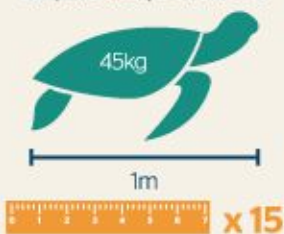
Baby Sea Turtle

Also known as "hatchlings"



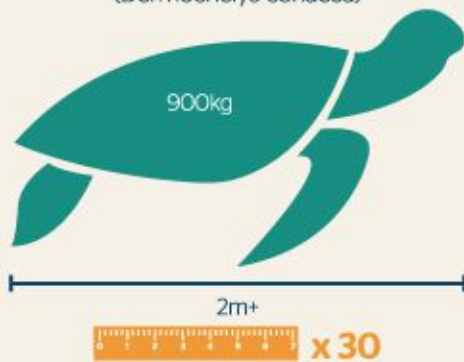
Smallest species

Olive Ridley or Pacific Ridley Turtle (Lepidochelys olivacea)



Largest species

Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)



Age

The estimated average lifespan for a sea turtle is 60-80 years.

Diet

All species are omnivores, feeding primarily on sea grass and jellyfish.



DID YOU KNOW?

To all other animals the jellyfish is inedible because of its well-equipped stinging tentacles.

Incubation time



Hot fact: Temperature matters

The sex of baby turtles is determined by the temperature of the sand—the girls are hot, the boys are cool.

A life at sea

Mature At 30 Years

Young turtles spend their first 20-30 years riding the ocean currents before returning to their birthplace to nest.

Save our Turtles



Worldwide, six of the seven sea turtle species are classified as threatened or endangered due to human actions and lifestyles.

The biggest threats include:

- Entanglement in fishing gear
- Poaching and illegal trade of eggs, meat, and shells
- Coastal development
- Plastic and other marine debris
- Global warming
- Ocean pollution



World's oldest GPS

For 200 million years turtles have been finding their way back. Hatchlings orientate themselves to the earth's magnetic field and lock the location into their internal GPS.

Tough nut

The top side of a sea turtle's shell is called the carapace. It's made up of 60 different bones and plates that give it incredible strength and protection.



Only **1 in a 1000** turtles survive to maturity.



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