

TURTLE TIDES

Official Newsletter of the Sea Turtle Survival League's Sea Turtle KidsClub

Dear sea turtle supporter,

Welcome

to this issue of *Turtle Tides*, an environmental education newsletter of the Sea Turtle KidsClub! We hope you will enjoy reading about sea turtles, their habitats and the ways we can help protect them. You can look forward to many issues and be sure to share what you learn with your friends, teachers and family!

Thanks,
The Editor

Sea Turtle

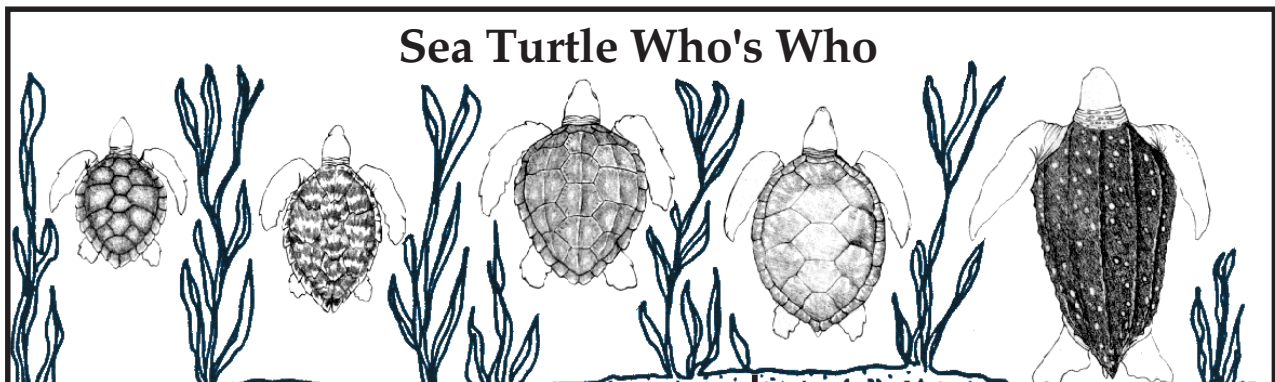
FUN FACTS

Did you know that...

* When sea turtles swim through the water they look like they are "flying." Their big, strong flippers flap almost like wings on a bird flying through the air. The motion of their strong flippers is what thrusts these big reptiles through the water.

* Just like you and me, when sea turtles swallow ocean water, they get a lot of SALT! But their body has no use for all this salt. So, they get rid of it through their eyes, by shedding big salty "tears."

Sea Turtle Who's Who



<p>Kemp's ridley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 2 feet long * 90 pounds * smallest of all sea turtles, most nest in Mexico. 	<p>Hawksbill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 2.5 feet long * 125 pounds * very endangered, killed for its shell to make jewelry. 	<p>Loggerhead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 3 feet long * 300 pounds * named for its very large head & powerful jaws. 	<p>Green</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 3.5 feet long * 350 pounds * eats only plants as an adult, named for the color of its fat. 	<p>Leatherback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 6 - 9 feet long * 500 - 2,000 lbs * has leathery shell with boney ridges, eats mainly jellyfish
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TURTLE TIDES

Are you doing something cool that relates to sea turtles and their habitats?

If you, your family and friends, your school or the people in your community are doing something to help save sea turtles, please let me know about it!

Send me your artwork, letters, photos and poems. I may not be able to return them, but I'll print many of them in the Turtle Tides Newsletter. Please include your name, age and address and mail it to:

Turtle Tides Editor
4424 NW 13th St
Ste B-11
Gainesville, FL 32609

or send an email to:
kimberly@cccturtle.org



CAN YOU SAY "TURTLE?"

Sure you can! But can you say the name of your favorite animal in 10 other languages? Look at the two lists below and try matching each of the 10 different languages on the left with a word that means "turtle" in that language from the list on the right. (You can check your answers at the bottom of page 3).

When you finish, try saying "turtle" in all 9 languages. Remember, practice makes perfect!

Vietnamese	Omslaan
Norwegian	Con rua
Indonesian	Tortue
Gaelic (Ireland)	Schildkrote
Dutch	Tortuga
Spanish	Calman or Turtur
Italian	Havskilpadde
German	Kura kura
French	Tartaruga



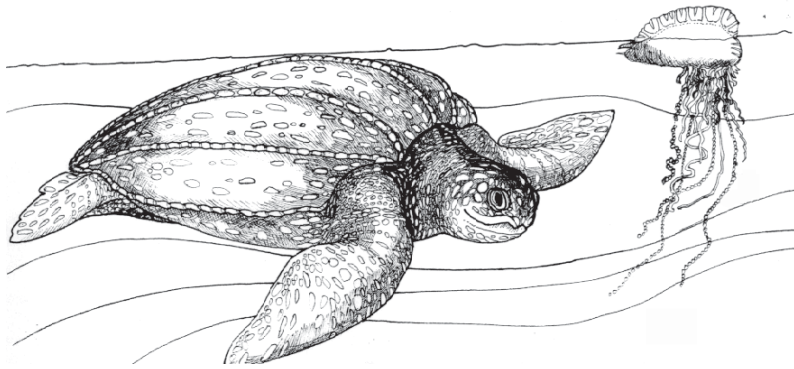
The Endangered Species Game

- Besides sea turtles, how many endangered species of animals can you name?
- In what ways are these animals different from marine turtles?
- Why do you think these animals are in danger?
- What do these endangered animals need to survive? Certain types of food? Climate? A special habitat?
- Can you think of any endangered species that inhabit your area?
- Make a list of the activities you could do to help these species.



CREATURE FEATURE

This issue's featured species: The Leatherback



Scientific name: *Dermochelys coriacea*

The Leatherback is the largest of the sea turtles in the world. Scientists have recorded ones that are as big as 8 feet long and weigh as much as 2,000 pounds – that is almost as big as a small car!

The leatherback is the only sea turtle that does not have a hard shell. Instead it has

tough, “rubbery” skin with thousands of small boney plates. Unlike other sea turtles, which are shades of green or brown, the leatherback is usually black with many small white or pink dots. The leatherback's favorite food is jellyfish. They also can dive very deep – over 3,000 feet underwater! Can you imagine how deep that is?

Leatherbacks can travel very far. They are found in almost all of the oceans. Some are found as far north as Alaska and as far south as the southern tip of Africa. Can you find these places on a map?

In the Caribbean, leatherback females crawl up on the beach between the months of March and July each year to nest and lay their eggs in the sand. About 2 months later, the baby turtles hatch out of the eggs. They are very small— only about 3 ½ inches long and they only weigh about 2 grams. Try to find something around your house that is this size. Can you believe that something so small can grow up to be so big?

Leatherbacks are in danger for many reasons. Some are hunted for their oil and meat, others are caught by fisherman. Sometimes, leatherback turtles die because they accidentally eat plastic bags that were thrown in the ocean. The leatherbacks do not know that they are eating plastic, because it looks like jellyfish, their favorite food. That is why it is important to not throw litter on our beaches. Marine trash is a serious threat to leatherbacks!

If you want to help save the leatherbacks, tell your friends about them. By teaching other people what you have learned, you can help make a difference!

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The Sea Turtle Survival League and Sea Turtle KidsClub are programs of the non-profit Caribbean Conservation Corporation. Founded in 1959, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation is the world's oldest sea turtle research and conservation organization.

Hey Kids! Try to find these words in the WORDSEARCH below. They can be up, down, across, or diagonal - but will not be backwards. Once you find all 10 words, see if you can explain why they matter in our effort to help sea turtles. If you do not know what any of the words mean, be sure to find out! Have fun!

Eggs	Pollution
Leatherback	Habitat
Endangered	Protect
Nest	Help
KidsClub	Sea Turtle

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