

**DISCOVER**  
Our **AMAZING**  
**WORLD**  
CLIL READERS

# The Loggerhead

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# Sea Turtles

**S**ea turtles are one of Earth's most ancient creatures. They are marine reptiles which are found throughout most of the world's warm and temperate oceans. Some turtles travel between oceans, while others are only found in specific places.

Sea turtles' shells are perfectly designed for gliding through the sea. Unlike other turtles, sea turtles can't pull their head and legs back into their shell. Their colour varies from species to species, but they are most often yellow, green or black.



**Prehistoric sea turtle  
at the Museum  
of Natural History NYC**

**T**here are currently seven species of sea turtles living in our seas, including the Flatback sea turtle, Green sea turtle, Hawksbill sea turtle, Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, Leatherback turtle, Loggerhead turtle and the Olive Ridley sea turtle. From reading the list you might think that there are a lot of turtles in our seas, but unfortunately all seven species are endangered, and some are critically endangered species.

Turtles face many threats to their survival from the moment they are born. After they hatch and as they make their way to the sea they are at risk from foxes, raccoons and seagulls. Even as adults, they are hunted by sharks, seals and whales in the sea. But probably their biggest threat of all is man. With so many predators to watch out for, it is no surprise that the turtle population is getting smaller.

We must work hard to try to conserve sea turtles. Not only are they beautiful and ancient creatures, but their survival helps maintain ecosystems in the ocean and on the coast.

**Kemp's Ridley sea turtle:** the rarest and smallest of the sea turtles



**Green Turtle:** named for the greenish color of its skin



**Leatherback:** the largest and most active of the sea turtles




**Hawksbill sea turtle:** named for its narrow head and hawk-like beak

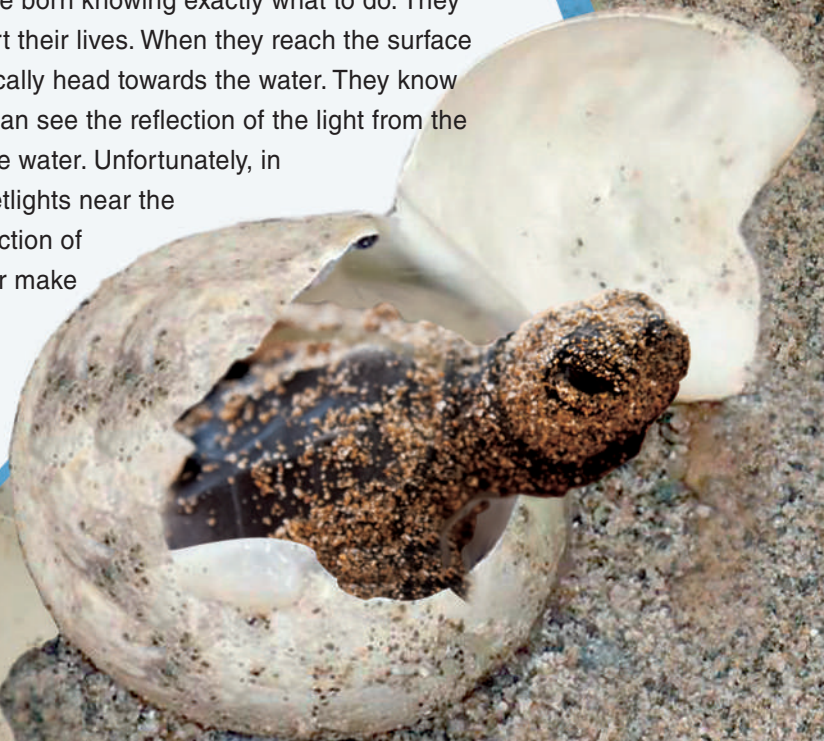


# Survival

## Instinct

A baby loggerhead turtle is shown on a sand dune. The turtle has a brown and black patterned shell and a dark head. It is looking towards the right of the frame. The sand is light-colored and textured.

It takes around eighty days for the turtle eggs to hatch. The baby turtles all hatch at around the same time, usually at night. When they are ready to hatch, the baby turtles tear their eggshells apart with their beaks and dig up through the sand, poking their heads out to see the world as they reach the surface. The baby loggerheads are about four and a half centimeters long and weigh about 20 grams. They are much darker in color than adult loggerheads, with brown or black bodies and shells. Perhaps one of the most amazing things about loggerhead turtles is the instinct they have, from the moment they hatch, to find their way to the sea. They have no parents around to guide or protect them, but these baby turtles are born knowing exactly what to do. They scramble out of their nest, eager to start their lives. When they reach the surface of the sand, the baby turtles automatically head towards the water. They know which direction to go in because they can see the reflection of the light from the moon and the stars on the surface of the water. Unfortunately, in areas where there are buildings or streetlights near the beach, the turtles often go in the direction of these artificial lights and never make it to the ocean.



# An Important Journey

## Word Bank

(pp. 8-9)

**apart from** (prep) = except for

**polar regions** (phr) = the areas surrounding the North and South Poles

**coast** (n) = the area where the land meets the sea

**feeding ground** (phr) = an area where a particular animal goes to eat

**female** (adj) = related to women

**journey** (n) = a long trip somewhere

**glide** (v) = to move easily and smoothly

**carapace** (n) = the shell of a turtle

**pale** (adj) = not dark

**plastron** (n) = the lower part of the shell of a turtle

**underneath** (adv) = on the lower side

**flippers** (n) = flat broad limbs of aquatic animals

**back and forth** (phr) = to and fro

**gracefully** (adv) = showing beauty and ease

**hatch** (v) = to emerge from an egg

**nest** (n) = a place where turtles, etc. lay eggs

**nesting ground** (phr) = an area where animals go to build their nests

**lay eggs** (phr) = to produce eggs

**century** (n) = a hundred years

**generation** (n) = an age group

**migration** (n) = the act of moving from one place to another

**route** (n) = a way

**hatchling** (n) = a young animal that has just come out of its egg

(pp. 10-11)

**underwater** (adv) = under the water

**surface** (n) = the top part of sth

**remain** (v) = to stay

**breathe** (v) = to take in and let out air

**fill** (v) = to make full

**lungs** (n) = the organs we use to breathe

**breath** (n) = the air you take in when you breathe

**oxygen** (n) = a colourless gas which is needed by all living creatures

**power** (v) = to provide energy to make sth move/work

**spread out** (v) = to stretch out

**position** (n) = the way sb/sth is standing, sitting or lying

**bottom** (n) = the ground under the sea

**temperature** (n) = a measurement of how hot/cold sth is

**heart** (n) = the organ that pumps blood around the body

**beat** (v) = to make regular rhythmic movements

**impressive** (adj) = wonderful; amazing

**direction** (n) = the general line that sb/sth is moving in

**wave** (n) = a raised mass of water on the surface of the sea

**detect** (v) = to sense sth

**magnetic field** (n) = an area surrounding a magnet or sth that acts like a magnet


**skills** (n) = special abilities

**navigate** (v) = to find the right direction to a place

## Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Decide which of the following sentences are *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 Loggerhead turtles often live in the polar regions. ....
- 2 Female loggerheads return to their birthplace every 2 years. ....
- 3 Generations of turtles will all be born in the same place. ....
- 4 Loggerheads spend all day underwater. ....
- 5 Loggerhead turtles are at their most active in warmer temperatures. ....
- 6 Loggerheads swim while they are asleep. ....
- 7 Loggerhead turtles can cross the Pacific Ocean. ....

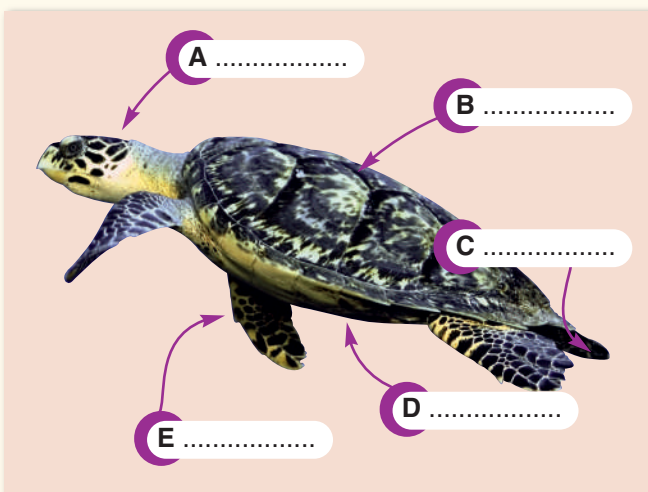
b)  Listen, read, and check. Correct the false sentences.

## While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and for questions 1-3 choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

- How does the female turtle cross an ocean?
  - By using visual clues.
  - By using her power of smell.
  - By sensing the direction of the waves.
  - By following certain sounds.
- The author mentions humans and boats to show
  - how fast loggerhead turtles can swim.
  - how clever turtles are.
  - how big the Pacific Ocean is.
  - how strong loggerhead turtles are.
- Why do loggerhead turtles swim for thousands of kilometers to lay their eggs?
  - Because all turtles use the same nesting ground.
  - Because they want to find a safe place to lay their eggs.
  - Because they return to the place where they were born to lay their eggs.
  - Nobody really knows for sure.

3 SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Label the parts of the turtle using these words: *flippers, tail, carapace, head, plastron.*



4 Fill in: *deep, popular, same, active, magnetic.*

- Turtles are more ..... in warmer temperatures.
- Turtles can detect the Earth's ..... field.
- The coast of California is a ..... feeding ground for Pacific loggerheads.
- Turtles return to the ..... place that they were born in.
- Turtles use their flippers to glide through the ..... water.

5 SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Replace the words in bold with: *power, beat, remain, nest, breathe, lay.*

- Female turtles make an amazing journey to **produce** their eggs.
- Turtles make a **place for their eggs** in the place where they were born.
- She can **stay** underwater for several hours.
- One breath can **energize** the turtle's body for a long length of time.
- Turtles come to the surface every 15-30 minutes to **fill their lungs with air**.
- In cold temperatures, turtles' hearts **move** more slowly.

## After-Reading activities


6 **Think!** Choose the title that makes the best alternative title for the text.

- Swimming in the Polar Regions
- A Miracle of Nature
- Environmental Effects on Turtles


7 Describe the loggerhead turtle's resting and sleeping habits.

# Review

## Listening Activities

**1**  Listen to a dialogue about loggerhead turtles. For questions 1-4 choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

- 1 What are the speakers mainly discussing?  
A Threats to loggerhead turtles  
B What loggerhead turtles look like  
C Where loggerhead turtles live  
D What loggerhead turtles eat
- 2 Why does the man say, 'Do you know why they are called loggerhead turtles?'  
A To introduce a description of the loggerhead turtle  
B To find out how much the woman knows about the subject  
C Because he doesn't know the answer  
D Because he has forgotten the answer
- 3 According to the woman, what is a carapace?  
A A turtle's tail  
B A turtle's back  
C A scientist  
D A turtle's shell
- 4 Which of the following statements is NOT true?  
A Loggerhead turtles are an endangered species.  
B Loggerheads get their name from their small head.  
C Loggerheads are beautiful creatures.  
D Loggerheads have big flippers.

**2**  Listen to a lecture about loggerhead turtles. For questions 1-4 choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

- 1 What is the main topic of the lecture?  
A The feeding habits of turtles.  
B The nesting habits of turtles.  
C The swimming habits of turtles.  
D The hunting habits of turtles.
- 2 According to the speaker, how many eggs do loggerheads usually lay?  
A 70  
B 45  
C 25  
D 80
- 3 Why does the speaker say, "Does anybody know how the baby turtles find their way to the water?"  
A Because she doesn't know the answer.  
B To find out how much her students know about the subject.  
C Because she can't remember the answer.  
D To review what she has already told the students.
- 4 Which of the following statements is NOT true?  
A That turtle eggs usually hatch during the night.  
B There are many animals that prey on baby turtles.  
C Turtle eggs take around two months to hatch.  
D Turtles can lay eggs when they reach 45 years old.


# Amazing facts

## Did you know?

The first turtle-like animals are thought to have  
1) ..... about 260 million years ago.

Sea turtles have no teeth, just very powerful jaws.

Turtles can move through the water at  
3) ..... of up to 24 km an hour.



Sea turtles have special  
2) ..... which help them to remove salt from the water they drink.

The turtles' lower  
4) ..... is called the plastron.

The loggerhead used to be hunted at one time for its  
5) ....., which was used in cosmetics and some medication.



Loggerhead turtles can live to be over 100 years old.



A 6) ..... of loggerheads is called a 'flotilla'.

- 1 Read the Amazing Facts and fill in: *glands, speeds, group, shell, fat, lived.*
- 2 **ICT** In groups collect more facts about turtles. Prepare a Yes/No quiz.



# The Loggerhead

Dive into the amazing world of the loggerhead and find out why they are one of the world's most well-known turtles.

Discover how these ancient marine reptiles use their natural skills to survive in the tough oceans through eye-catching images, entertaining stories and interesting facts.

## ***DIGI MATERIAL***

**cross-platform application**

(iOS, Android, Windows, MacOSX)



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