



# Sea Turtle 101

**Test your knowledge about sea turtles.  
Read the material and take the “Sea Turtle Challenge.”**

Sea turtles have lived on Earth for millions of years. Today there are seven (7) species of sea turtles: Leatherback, Green, Loggerhead, Hawksbill, Kemp’s Ridley, Olive Ridley, and Flatback. Sea turtles are reptiles, not mammals and live in all oceans of the world. A reptile is cold-blooded with scales, a backbone and lungs for breathing air. The top shell is called the carapace. The bottom shell is the plastron. The shell is flat and streamlined to cut through the water for speed. Sea turtles have four flippers they don’t have arms or legs. The two (2) front flippers are used as power flippers for swimming. The two (2) rear flippers are used as rudders to steer the turtle as it swims. A mommy sea turtle also uses the rear flippers to dig the egg chamber (nest), when they come ashore to lay eggs. Sea turtles do not have teeth they do have ears and good eye sight and sense of smell in the ocean. Some sea turtles are carnivores (meat eaters), others are herbivores (plant eaters) and some are omnivores (meat and plant eaters).

What’s on the menu? Leatherbacks eat large jellyfish. Loggerheads eat lobster, crab, and conch. Greens eat sea grass and algae. Hawksbills eat sponge they’re not a friend of Sponge Bob. Sea turtles can live 80 to 100 years, but only 1 in a 1,000 to 10,000 baby hatchlings live to be an adult sea turtle.

## Sea Turtle Challenge

- Today there are \_\_\_\_\_ species of sea turtles.
- Sea turtles are \_\_\_\_\_ not mammals.
- The top shell is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The bottom shell is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A mommy turtle uses her \_\_\_\_\_ flippers to dig the nest.
- Do sea turtles have teeth? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Do sea turtles have ears? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Herbivores eat \_\_\_\_\_.
- Loggerheads eat \_\_\_\_\_.
- Leatherbacks eat large \_\_\_\_\_.
- Hawksbills eat \_\_\_\_\_ not a friend of Sponge Bob.
- Sea turtles can live \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Years.