



TURTLE FACTS

- There are seven species of sea turtles: the leatherback, green, hawksbill, loggerhead, olive ridley, kemp's ridley and flatback.
- Sea turtles are marine reptiles that need to breathe air to survive, but they have the ability (under natural conditions) to remain underwater for hours at a time.
- Six of the seven species are found in US waters, and the flatback turtle is only found in the Western Indo-Pacific.
- Most of their lives are spent at sea, with some species diving to depths of 3000 feet (900 meters).
- All sea turtles return to shore to lay eggs, often making long journeys to go to specific beaches year after year.
- Sand temperature is very important for sea turtle eggs! The sex of sea turtles is determined by the temperature in the nest. Cooler incubation temperatures produce male hatchlings and warmer incubation temperatures produce female hatchlings. Temperatures that fluctuate between the two extremes will produce a mix of male and female hatchlings.
- Unlike other turtles, sea turtles cannot retract their flippers and head into their shells.