

JUNIOR RANGERS

BORN TO EXPLORE

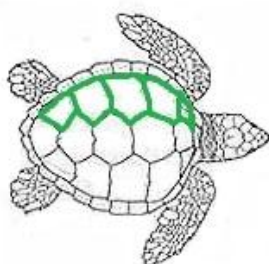


Telling turtles

There are seven different types of marine turtles in the world. Each can be identified by their unique pattern of scales on their shell. Use this worksheet to find out how to tell the difference between some Victorian visitors!

Marine turtles are ancient ocean wanderers, swimming around in the oceans since dinosaurs roamed the earth. They are reptiles who spend most their lives at sea, yet still need to surface for air to breathe.

Turtles also travel large distances visiting different oceans to feed and nest. Females can remember the exact beach where they were born, and travel back to the same location to have their own babies. Nesting in Australia occurs along warmer northern beaches during the summer months. Other times of the year turtles forage for food and venture into the southern waters around Victoria.



Loggerhead Turtle
(*Caretta caretta*)

Status: Vulnerable

Diet: Jellyfish, crabs, fish and seagrass

Adult size: 80-120cm

Identification: Five scales on each side of their back



Green Turtle
(*Chelonia mydas*)

Status: Vulnerable

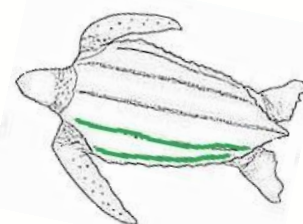
Diet: Sea grass and algae
Juveniles also like jellyfish

Adult size: 80-120cm

Identification: Four scales on each side of their back



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters



Leatherback Turtle
(*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Status: Endangered

Diet: Jellyfish

Adult size: 160-180cm (largest of the sea turtles)

Identification: Ridges rather than scales on their back

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Turtle tummies: draw an arrow from the food to the turtle's tummy it belongs in.



Plastic bag



Seagrass

Fishing line

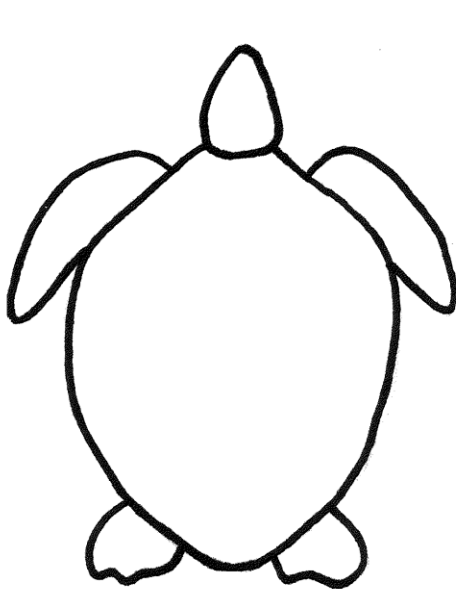


Jellyfish

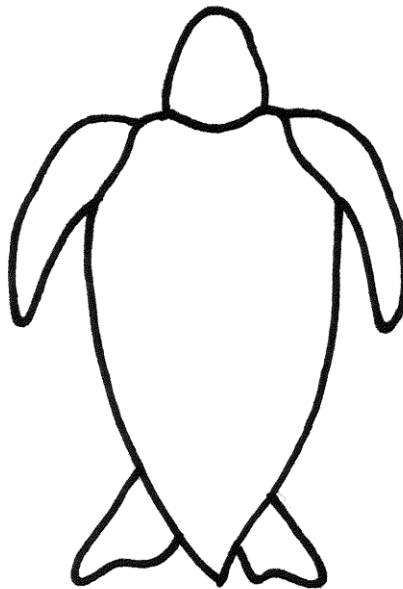


Turtles don't have great eye sight. Use a different colour to draw a line to who might accidently mistake the plastic bag and fishing line for their natural food.

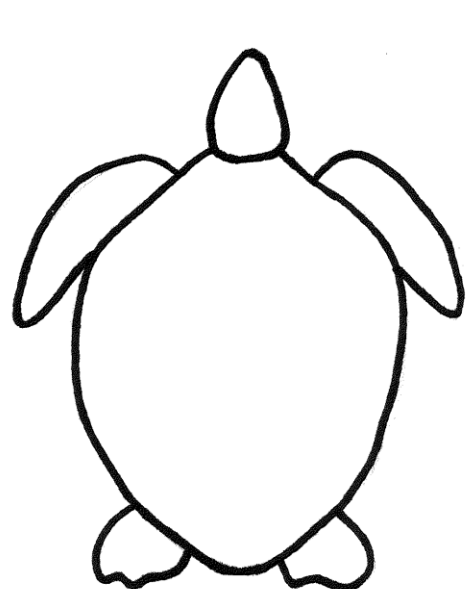
Test your ID skills: use the drawings on the previous page to draw your own turtle shell patterns:



Loggerhead turtle



Leatherback Turtle



Green Turtle

Whose baby is that? Using your new identification skills, write which species each baby turtle belongs to:



Ron Waters



La Selva Nature Reserve



Tyler Karaszewski

Left to right: Loggerhead, Leatherback, Green