

Sea Turtle Workbook



NAME

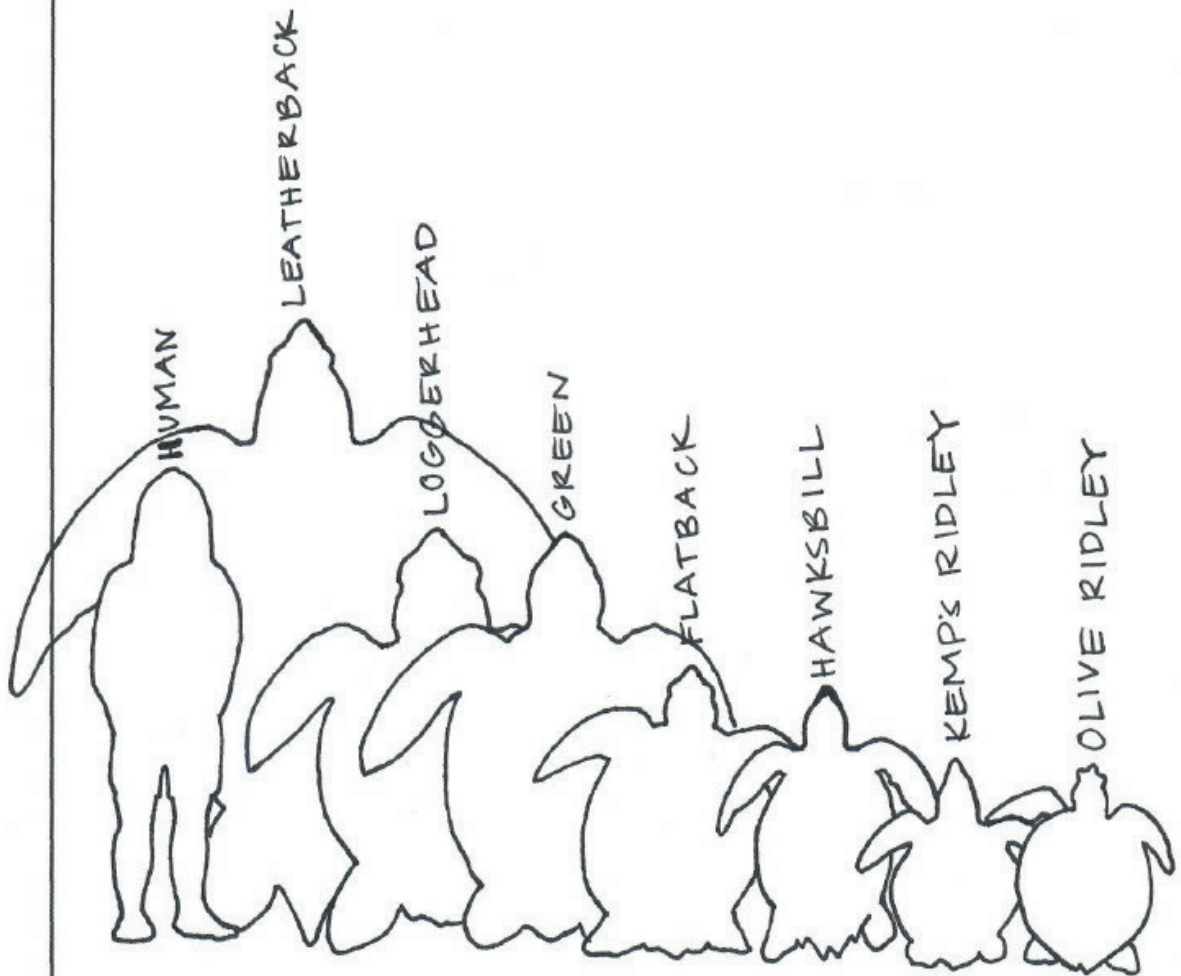
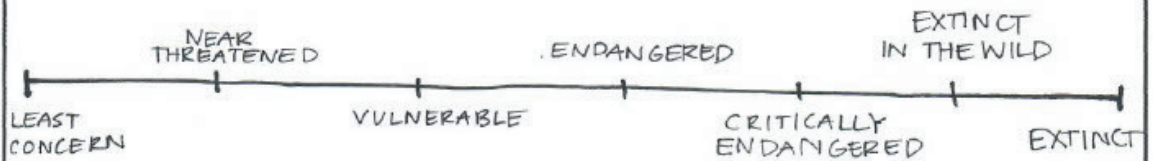
GRADE

FRIENDS OF VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK



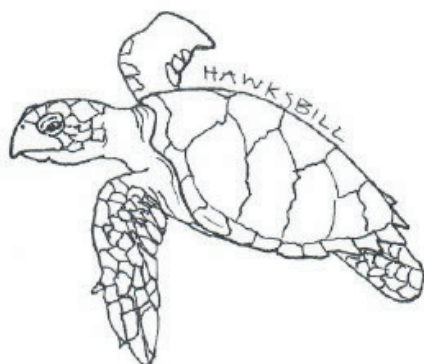
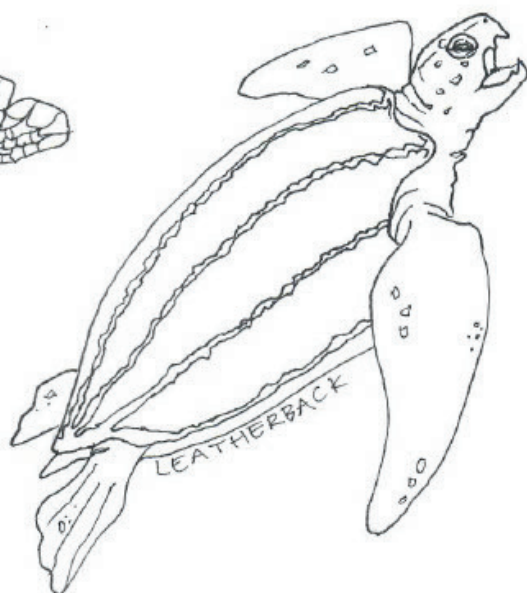
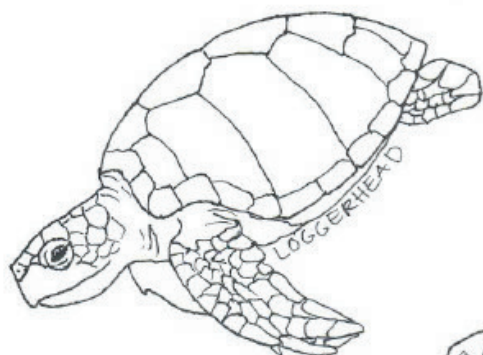
SEA TURTLES OF THE WORLD

There are seven species of sea turtles worldwide. The conservation status of each species ranges from vulnerable to critically endangered.



SEA TURTLES OF THE VI

Of the seven species found worldwide, four sea turtle species can be found in the Virgin Islands. Can you help them by drawing their habitat? Think about what they like to eat, where they might sleep, and who else is around. Draw everything they need for a comfortable life. *Hint: their food choices can be found on another page of this book.*

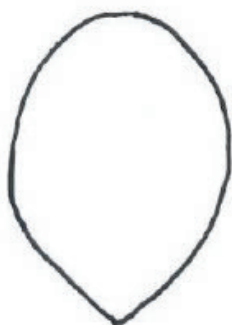




DID YOU KNOW
SEA TURTLES ARE REPTILES; LIKE HUMANS,
THEY BREATHE AIR. THEY CANNOT BREATHE
UNDERWATER. THEY CAN HOLD THEIR
BREATH FOR 4-7 HOURS WHILE SLEEPING
AND RESTING.

DRAW A SEA TURTLE

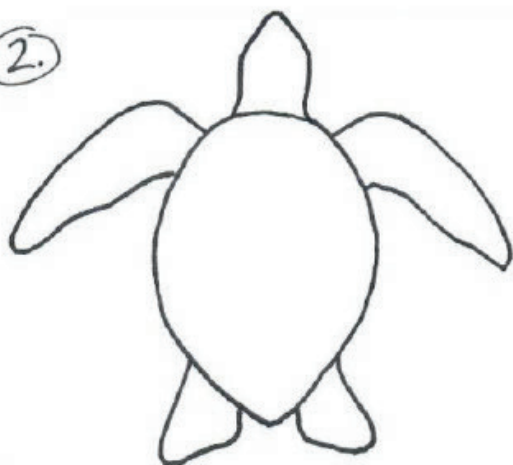
1.



DRAW THE SHELL

A turtle's hard shell is like a shield of armor protecting it from predators. The upper shell is called the **carapace** and is streamlined to glide through the water.

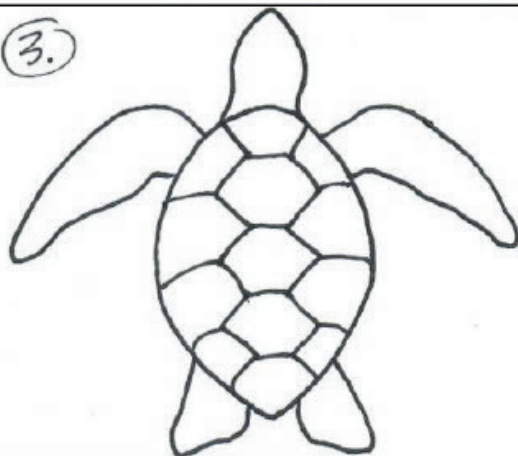
2.



ADD FLIPPERS & A HEAD

The front flippers act as paddles that move the turtle through the water. The hind flippers act as rudders that steer the turtle. A turtle's head has eyes, a mouth, and a nose, just like us! Also like us, turtles have ears--you just can't see them from the outside.

3.



GIVE THE SHELL A PATTERN

A turtle's shell is camouflaged to allow it to blend into the **environment**. Can you think of another animal that uses camouflage to blend in?

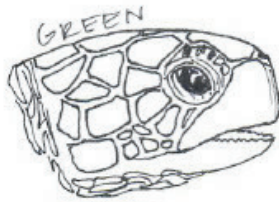
FEEDING ADAPTATIONS

DRAW A LINE TO
CONNECT ME TO MY FOOD SOURCE!

I have a pointy bird-like beak
that I use to pick my food
source out of crevices.



My jagged jaws help me chew
and tear my food.



My scissor-like jaws help me
pierce my food and my
esophagus is lined with spiny
prongs that help move my
slipper food to my stomach.



I have large strong jaws
that help me crush my
hard food.



LIFE CYCLE WORDSEARCH

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

WORD BANK

HATCHLING

BREEDING

CLUTCH

CORAL REEFS

CURRENTS

EGG

FORAGING

GREEN

HAWKSBILL

LOGGERHEAD

OLIVE RIDLEY

INCUBATION

JELLYFISH

KEMPS RIDLEY

LEATHERBACK

MIGRATION

SEAGRASS

NEST

OCEAN

PELAGIC

REPTILE

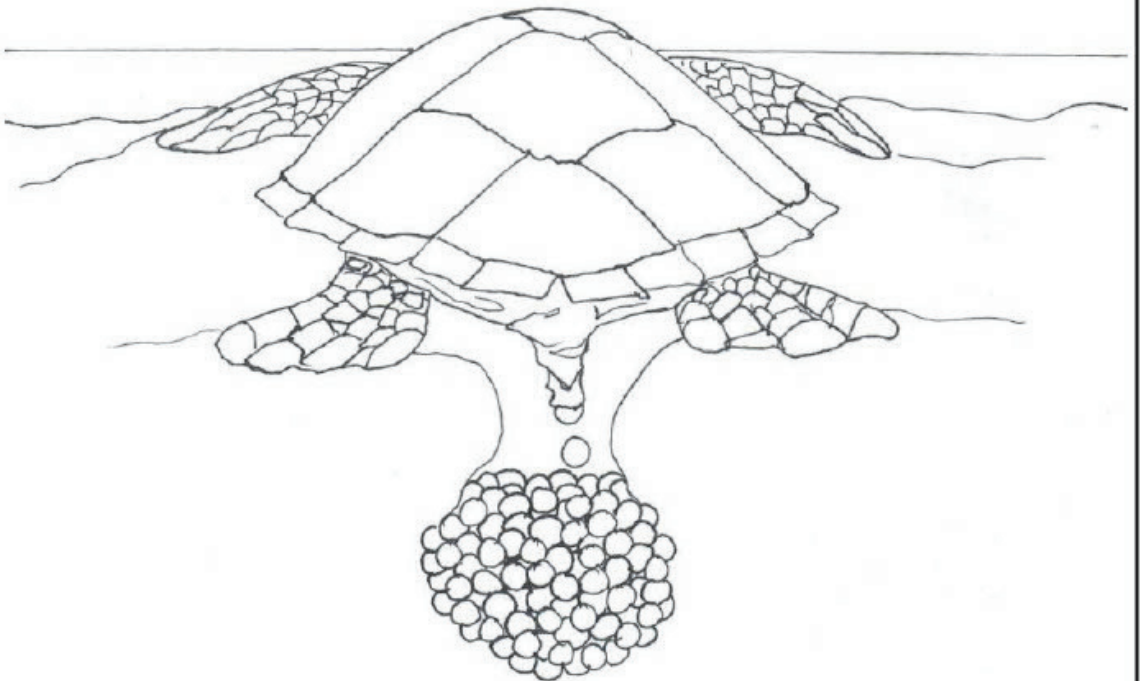
JUVENILE

NATAL

FLATBACK

NESTING

Mother turtles emerge at night to lay their eggs on sandy beaches. She digs her nest using her hind flippers and lays between 80 to 200 eggs. After covering her nest, she will return to the ocean to wait about two weeks before coming back to lay another **clutch**. She will lay between 2 to 7 nests per season.



HATCHING

Sea turtle hatchlings will *incubate* for around 2 months before hatching. These hatchlings will wait for the temperature to drop to emerge from their nest and crawl to the ocean. Can you think of any threats these hatchlings may face on their journey to the water?



CAN YOU DRAW
A HATCHLING
COMING OUT OF
ITS SHELL?



DID YOU KNOW
A TEAM OF SCIENTISTS AND TRAINED
VOLUNTEERS PATROL ST. JOHN BEACHES
DURING TURTLE NESTING SEASON TO HELP
PROTECT NESTS AND EXAMINE THEM ONCE
THEY HAVE HATCHED.

THREATS MAZE

START



END

THREATS KEY



Habitat destruction can impact a turtle's ability to find food and shelter. Anchors can disrupt the ocean floor, destroying sea grass beds and coral reefs.



Artificial lighting can impact mother sea turtles as well as hatchlings by causing the turtles to crawl away from the ocean rather than towards it. Sea turtles instinctively crawl towards the brightest spot on the horizon to reach the water, which was historically the reflective surface of the ocean.



Predators such as ghost crabs and mongoose can eat the eggs as they are incubating or the hatchlings as they are making their way to the ocean.



Birds and predatory fish prey on sea turtles in their early life stages.



Marine debris such as plastic pollution can be eaten by sea turtles and lead to blockages, buoyancy issues, digestive issues and death. Sea turtles can also become entangled in plastic pollution.



Coastal development impacts sea turtles by destroying nesting habitats, introducing artificial lighting, increasing runoff and pollution, as well as increasing human traffic and interference with nesting and near-shore turtles.



Sharks can prey on turtles of all life stages. Large sharks such as tigers, bulls, and great whites are the only predators to adult turtles aside from humans.



Boat collisions lead to serious injury or death. Sea turtles are reptiles and must breathe air to survive. While breathing or basking at the surface of the ocean, they are in danger of being hit by speeding boats.

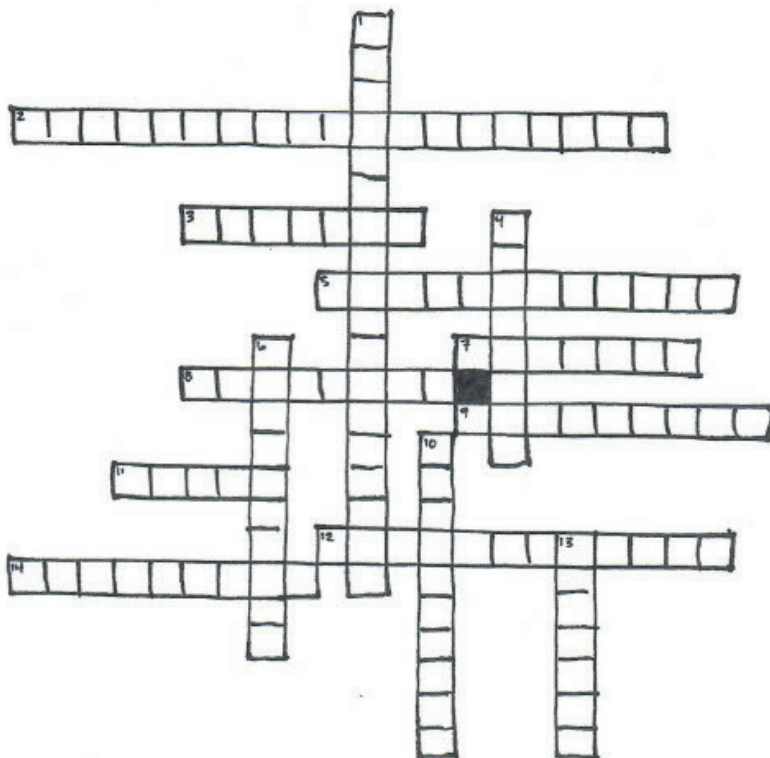


Fishing practices commonly lead to sea turtle mortality. Sea turtles can become trapped in nets, swallow hooks, and entangled in long lines.



Harvesting sea turtles is illegal and considered **poaching** in the USVI, where all species of sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Unfortunately, not every country has laws protecting sea turtles and they are still commonly hunted for their meat, eggs, and shells worldwide.

THREATS CROSSWORD



DOWN:

1. Causes turtles to go towards light rather than to the ocean
4. An animal that eats other animals for food
6. Unwanted behaviors that can cause stress such as touching, riding, chasing, or feeding
10. A species that is in danger of becoming extinct
13. A species that has no living members; no longer in existence

WORD BANK

endangered
poaching
habitat modification
artificial lighting
marine debris
harassment
boats

sunscreen
harvest
predator
extinct
pollution
bycatch
entanglement

ACROSS:

2. The changing of a habitat that disrupts a turtle's natural behaviors such as feeding, migrating, and reproducing
3. Untargeted species accidentally caught in the process of fishing
5. Trash in the ocean
7. The capturing or killing of sea turtles and eggs for human uses
8. Illegal harvest of a species
9. The introduction of poisonous or harmful materials into the environment
11. At high speeds, these can hit turtles as they are surfacing for air, causing serious injury or death
12. When a turtle becomes tangled in something
14. A chemical lotion that kills coral reefs

LETTER CODING & SCRAMBLE


USE THE CODE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE TO REVEAL THE MESSAGE:


8 5 12 16 19 1 22 5


19 5 1 20 21 18 20 12 5 9


_____:


 UNSCRAMBLE 

 REDUCE YOUR USE OF NGLSIE SUE TISPLACS

 _____
ENJOY FROM A ACENDITS

 _____
COVER UP OR USE EREF ESFA NSCURESNE

 _____
PICK UP YOUR SHRAT

 _____
CAN YOU THINK OF ANOTHER WAY?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

GLOSSARY

Adaptations – features that help an organism become better suited to their environment

Artificial lighting – man-made sources of lighting

Bycatch – untargeted species accidentally caught in the process of fishing

Carapace – the top of a turtle's shell

Clutch – all of the eggs laid in a nest

Conservation status – indicates whether a group of organisms currently exists and how likely it is to become extinct in the near future

Endangered – a species that is in danger of becoming extinct

Entanglement – when a turtle is accidentally tangled in something that is difficult to escape from such as a turtle wrapped in fishing line or rope

Environment – all living and non-living things that make up an organism's surroundings

Extinct – a species that has no living members

Habitat – the natural home or environment of an organism

Habitat destruction/modification – the changing or harming of a habitat

Harassment – unwanted behaviors inflicted on another animal that cause stress

Harvest – the capturing or killing of turtles or their eggs

Incubation – the process or period of time it takes for eggs to develop into hatchlings

Marine debris – trash in the ocean

Migration – traveling from one area to another for food or mating

Pollution – the introduction of poisonous or harmful materials into the environment

Predator – An animal that kills and eats another animal for food

NOT ALL CLASSROOMS HAVE FOUR WALLS

To learn more about Friends of Virgin Islands National Park youth programs including School Kids In The Park (SKIP), please visit www.friendsVINP.org

