

Introducing: The Sea Turtle



There are 7 Types of Sea Turtles.

They are as follows:

- * Olive Ridley
- * Kemp's Ridley
- * Hawksbill
- * Flatback
- * Green
- * Loggerhead
- * Leatherback

The largest of the Sea Turtles is the Leatherback which is shown below. It weighs in at between 550 & 2,000 pounds and can be up to 6 feet in length!



WOW!

How Does a Sea Turtle Call Another?

To find the answer, unscramble the words below. Capture the letters with an * under them, then unscramble those to complete the riddle.

Y P P A H

--- -- -- --

* *

N O S P O

--- -- -- --

* *

R E T W A

--- -- -- --

* *



It Uses its Shell _____!

Did You Know...

that Sea Turtles Cry?

It's not because they're sad. They are just emptying excess salt from their eyes.



Sea Turtles are Serious Travelers!



Sea Turtles can live to be over 100 years old and will travel thousands of miles during their lifetime!

They have a mineral called Magnetite in their brains that gives them the ability to use the Magnetic Fields of the Earth to navigate. That means they know exactly where they are and even have the ability to return to the beach where they were born! More on that below.

Sea Turtles Always Return Home to Lay their Eggs!

Once she has returned to the beach where she was born, the female sea turtle digs a nest in the sand, often called a clutch. After filling it with over 100 eggs, she covers the hole to hide the eggs from predators who are on the prowl. She then returns to the sea, leaving her babies behind to fend for themselves.

45 - 60 days later, the eggs hatch and a perilous journey now begins for the newborn hatchlings.



It's All About the Temp!

The gender of the babies is mainly determined by the temperature in the nest. If it's less than 82 degrees most of the hatchlings will be males. If it's more than 87 degrees, most of them will be females.



World Sea Turtle Day



World Sea Turtle Day is on June 16th, Every Year.



The Perilous Journey

Once hatched, the baby sea turtles will have to work their way out of the nest. They will then be in for the battle of a lifetime!

Their instincts tell them to get to the ocean as quickly as they can. Unfortunately, their little bodies were built for swimming in the water, not sprinting across a beach.



The birds are well aware of their plight and hover overhead, easily gobbling most of them up as they race for the sea. Those lucky enough to make it to the water will then have to watch out for all the hungry fish that are a part of their new world.

Only 1 in 1,000 Baby Sea Turtles will become Adults!

The Lawnmowers of the Ocean!



The Green Sea Turtle is a herbivore, eating greens instead of meat. Their diet prevents the seagrass from getting tall and harming other Marine Creatures.

The Big Difference between Land & Sea Turtles



Sea Turtles cannot retract their heads or flippers into their shell like the land turtle above.

Leatherback and Hawksbill Sea Turtles find this Sea Creature very tasty and snack on them often, keeping their population under control.

Decode the answer by using the chart below.

1=E 2=F 3=H 4=I 5=J 6=L 7=S 8=Y

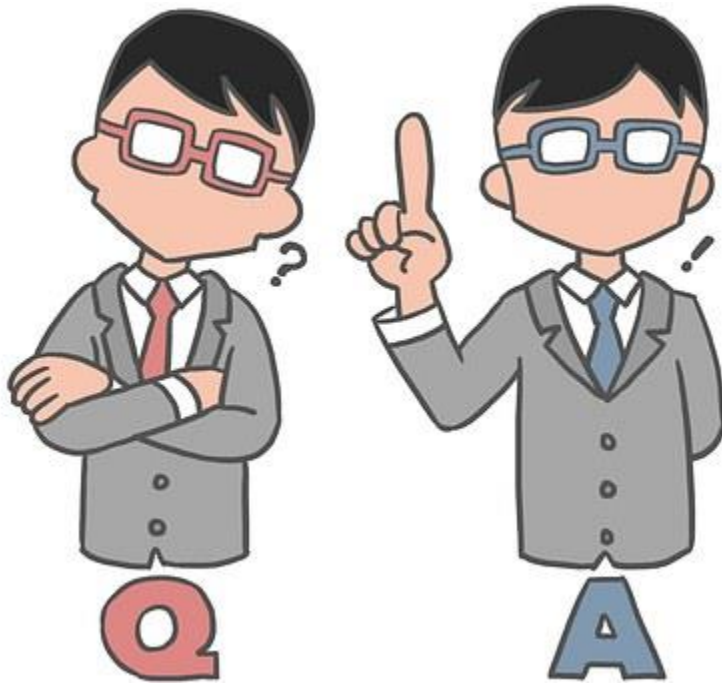
Write an E above all spaces with a 1 underneath them. Write an F above all spaces with a 2 underneath them and so on.

5 1 6 6 8 2 4 7 3

Yum, Yum



Answer Key



How does a Sea Turtle Call Another?

Words to Unscramble: Happy, Spoon and Water

It Uses its Shell Phone.

Leatherback and Hawksbill Sea Turtles find this Sea Creature very tasty and snack on them often, keeping their population under control.

Jellyfish

So Long for Now

If you have been blessed by this Teaching Resource, PLEASE send it on to others.



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Have an AWESOME Day!

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