

Nesting Sea Turtle (Loggerhead)

Loggerhead Sea Turtle

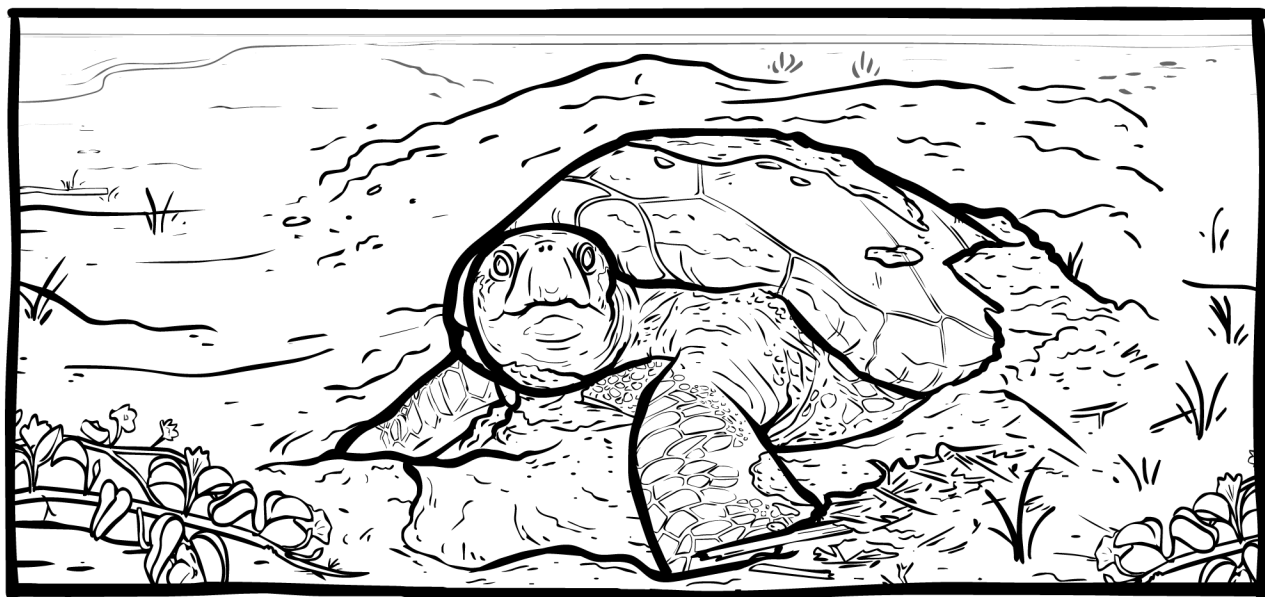
(*Caretta caretta*)

Instant ID

- Sea turtle with a large, block-like head
- Average weight is 250 pounds
- Shell is heart-shaped
- Upper shell is reddish-brown
- Lower shell is light to medium yellow

Native Niches

- Most common sea turtle in Florida
- Florida beaches host one of the largest nesting groups in the world
- Females return to nesting sites every two or more years



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Favorite Foods

- Feeds on jellies (jellyfish), crabs and other invertebrates (animals without a backbone)
- Uses powerful jaws to crush the shells of its prey

Critter Characteristics

- Can swim for long periods of time
- Lives over 50 years
- Females lay up to 130 eggs per clutch.

Population Protection

- Listed as threatened and are protected by law
- You can help by keeping beaches dark at night—light disorients sea turtles