

Sea Turtles

(Chelonia mydas, Caretta caretta, Eretmochelys imbricata, Lepidochelys kempi, Dermochelys coriacea)

FLorida Sea Turtles



Instant ID

- **Green**: A small head and is named for the color of its body fat
- Loggerhead: A large block-like head, and is the most common sea turtle in Florida
- **Hawksbill**: Powerful jaws, with rough edges on the rear of its shell
- Kemp's Ridley: The smallest and rarest of Florida's sea turtles
- Leatherback: A shell covered with a leathery, rubbery layer

Native Niches

- Live in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean
- Found in shallow saltwater habitats such as seagrass beds, bays and among coral reefs

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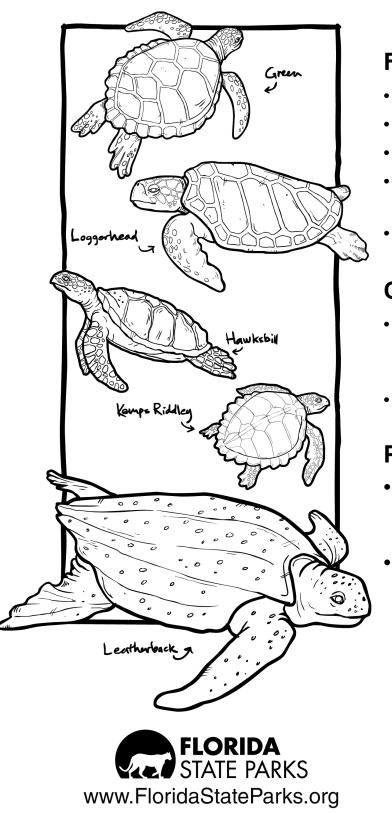
 Dig nests on beaches across Florida



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Favorite Foods

- Green: Seagrasses and algae
- Loggerhead: Clams and crabs
- Hawksbill: Sponges
- Kemp's Ridley: Crabs and other crustaceans
- Leatherback: Jellyfish

Critter Characteristics

- On average, sea turtles dig more than 4,000 nests in Florida State Parks every year
- Sea turtles live for 40 to 60 years

Population Protection

- All species of sea turtles are listed as endangered or threatened and are protected by law
- You can help by keeping beaches dark at night, light disorient sea turtles

