

Did You Know?

Fun Facts about Sea Turtles



- The sex of sea turtles is determined by the temperature in the nest. Cooler incubation temperatures produce male hatchlings while warmer incubation temperatures produce female hatchlings. As global temperatures rise, the number of male hatchlings decreases.
- Adult male and female sea turtles are often the same size.
- From May 1 to October 31, people in Florida towns with nesting beaches turn off their lights and pull down their shades to help reduce artificial light which can interfere with the sea turtles' natural nesting processes.
- Although they breathe air, sea turtles have the ability to remain submerged underwater for hours at a time. They even sleep underwater!
- Most sea turtles spend their entire lives at sea, returning to nesting beaches only to lay eggs. Male sea turtles never leave the ocean.

World Sea Turtle Day is celebrated every year on June 16.

QLT Spotlight

Lease Benefit: Flexible Lease Options

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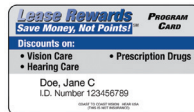
* Some products (party line, hardwired, one-button telephones and ancillary products) may require special arrangements for replacement, repair or relocation. Arrangements can be made by calling our Lease Customer Helpline. A model change may result in a rate change.

Sea Turtles Word Search



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|------------|--------------|--------------|
| SEA TURTLE | SHRIMP | ENDANGERED |
| GREEN | OLIVE RIDLEY | KEMPS RIDLEY |
| FLAT BACK | HAWKSBILL | JELLY FISH |
| HABITAT | CRABS | LEATHERBACK |
| SNAILS | LOGGERHEAD | |

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Lease

NEWS & VIEWS

SPRING

Learn About Sea Turtles



SPRING 2023 – qlt-147310



Wonders of the Sea

As the weather warms up and the days get longer, plants and animals come alive as well. The spring is a common time for trees and bushes to sprout new leaves and flowers, and for many animals – including sea turtles – to nest.

Sea turtles are ectothermic (cold-blooded) reptiles that breathe air with lungs and have a three-chambered heart. Females must come ashore to lay their eggs in the sand, which means that all sea turtles begin their lives as tiny hatchlings on land. These fascinating creatures are critical to keeping ecosystems healthy and balanced. They offer many environmental benefits, including providing living space for other creatures and regulating populations of prey animals such as jellyfish.

Creatures Large and Small

There is great variety within the seven species of sea turtles. The smallest species is the Kemp's Ridley turtle, which can reach two feet and 70-100 pounds when fully grown. As an adult they are generally gray-green with a pale-yellow bottom, and they have a triangular-shaped head and a slightly hooked beak. The Kemp's Ridley species enjoys a diet of crabs, shrimp, snails, clams, jellyfish, and fish. They are the only sea turtle that nests during the day and can often be spotted in dunes or swamps during their nesting season of April to August.

At the other end of the spectrum is the Leatherback turtle, the largest of the sea turtles, which can weigh 550 to 1500 pounds and average about six feet long. Unlike other turtles, Leatherbacks lack scales and a hard shell and are easily identified by their rubbery skin. They are primarily black with pinkish-white coloring on their bottom sides. Leatherbacks are extremely strong

swimmers. They can dive up to 4,000 feet underwater and stay under there for 85 minutes before coming up for air! Because they lack chewing palates, the Leatherback's diet consists of jellyfish.

A Species at Risk

Unfortunately, human poaching activities along with the destruction of natural habitats and accidental captures in fishing gear have all contributed to the endangerment of sea turtles. The small Kemp's Ridley species is considered the most endangered of all sea turtle species in the world.

In 1973, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to protect and conserve native plants and animals from becoming extinct as well as to preserve our natural ecosystems. The ESA is considered our most important environmental law and protects a species once it is declared threatened. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service share responsibility for ongoing efforts to save endangered wildlife.



19 percent of the world's turtles live in the United States.

Friends Among Us

Six of the seven species of sea turtles can be found in the United States.

SPECIES	NEW ENGLAND /MID ATLANTIC	SOUTHEAST	WEST COAST	PACIFIC ISLANDS	ALASKA
Green Sea Turtle					
Loggerhead Sea Turtle					
Hawksbill Sea Turtle					
Leatherback Sea Turtle					
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle					
Olive Ridley Sea Turtle					

We'd Love to Hear from You!

Laurie Bahnatka, QLT Consumer Lease Services, PO BOX 506, Cedar Knolls NJ 07927. Or, if you prefer, you may email Laurie at info@qtlcls.com.

How to Help

We can all do our part to help protect the endangered sea turtle.

- Join an organization that helps to protect sea turtles, and volunteer your time. Visit <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/sea-turtles> to learn more.
- Make sure the seafood you eat is responsibly and sustainably caught.
- If you live in a coastal community, participate in clean-up efforts to pick up litter along the beach.
- Reduce plastic waste by using reusable water bottles and shopping bags to help keep the ocean and beaches clean.
- Never litter or release balloons which create choking hazards.
- If you are a boater, be sure to read up on ways to help protect marine wildlife when out on the water.