

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Sea Turtles: Amazing Ocean Travelers

Sea turtles are incredible creatures that live in the ocean. They are some of the oldest and most fascinating animals on our planet. Let's dive into the world of sea turtles and learn more about these amazing ocean travelers!

### What Sea Turtles Look Like

Sea turtles are known for their unique appearance. They have a hard shell, called a carapace, that covers their body, providing protection like a suit of armor. These shells can come in different colors, like brown, green, or even black, depending on the species. Their flippers are adapted for swimming, and some sea turtles are quite big, with the largest, the leatherback sea turtle, reaching up to seven feet in length!

### Where Sea Turtles Live

Sea turtles are found in oceans all around the world, and they often travel long distances in search of food or nesting sites. They are expert swimmers and can spend most of their lives in the water. However, female sea turtles come ashore to lay their eggs on sandy beaches.

### What Sea Turtles Eat

Sea turtles have different diets depending on their species. Some sea turtles are herbivores, which means they mainly eat plants like seagrass and algae. Others are carnivores and enjoy munching on jellyfish, crabs, and even sponges. Their diet helps keep the balance of life in the oceans.

### The Amazing Life Cycle

The life of a sea turtle is filled with incredible journeys. After a mother sea turtle lays her eggs in the sand, the baby turtles hatch and make their way to the ocean. It's a challenging and dangerous journey as they face many predators, but those who survive grow up to be strong swimmers.

### Conservation and Protection

Sea turtles face many threats, including pollution, habitat loss, and fishing nets. Because they are so important to the health of the oceans, many people and organizations work hard to protect them. Some places have special laws to help keep sea turtles safe, and volunteers even patrol beaches to make sure the baby turtles have a better chance of making it to the sea.

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### Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What is the hard shell that covers a sea turtle's body called?
2. Where do female sea turtles lay their eggs?
3. What do some sea turtles eat if they are herbivores?
4. What is the challenging journey that baby sea turtles face after hatching?
5. Why is it important to protect sea turtles?