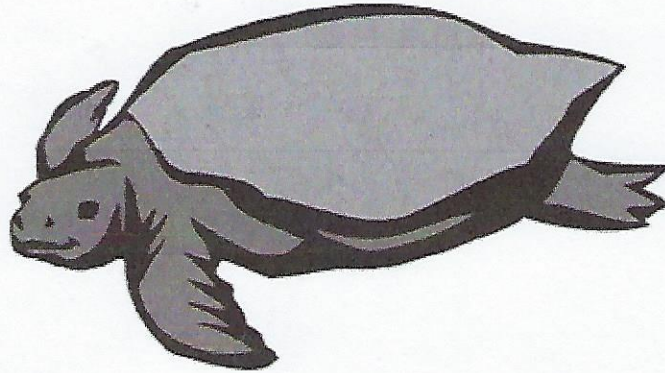


Loggerhead Turtle

Loggerhead Turtles live in temperate and subtropical oceans around the world. They live exclusively in the water, but females lay eggs on beaches. It is estimated that there are approximately 60,000 living today.



The main threat to the Loggerhead Turtle is becoming trapped in the nets of tuna or shrimp fishing boats. The turtles live in water, but need to surface to breathe. When they become trapped in the nets, they are unable to reach the surface. Other threats include coastal development of nesting habitats and predators targeting nests.

Loggerhead Turtles have a variety of habitats. They may live close to shore or hundreds of miles out to sea. Females return to the beach where they were born to lay their own eggs.

The turtle's diet consists of snails, sponges, squid, clams, and fish. Some newly hatched turtles will eat algae. The turtles are important in maintaining the ecosystem by ingesting these invertebrates. In addition, their shells can host many species of plants and animals that would die without the turtles.

To protect the Loggerhead Turtle, nesting grounds are being guarded from predators and litter is being removed from beaches so it is not accidentally ingested by the turtles. The threat from fishing boats continues to be a real danger to the species.

Name _____ Date _____

Loggerhead Turtle - Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. Loggerhead Turtles

- a. live in the water
- b. live on land
- c. lay eggs in the water
- d. none of the above

2. The biggest threat to Loggerhead Turtles is

- a. poaching
- b. hunting
- c. fishing nets
- d. sharks

3. Loggerhead Turtles

- a. only live close to shore
- b. only live far out at sea
- c. may live close to shore or far out at sea
- d. live on land

4. Female Loggerheads lay their eggs

- a. in shallow water
- b. on the beach where they were born
- c. on the nearest beach
- d. none of the above

5. Loggerhead Turtles do not eat

- a. snails
- b. squid
- c. clams
- d. grass

6. Loggerhead Turtles are important to the ecosystem because

- a. they eat invertebrates
- b. they host animals on their shells
- c. they host plants on their shells
- d. all of the above