

PROTECT SOUTH WALTON

SEA TURTLES

Small Steps from Us Mean Big Strides for Them

THANK YOU FOR
BEING A FRIEND AND
PROTECTING OUR
SEA TURTLES!



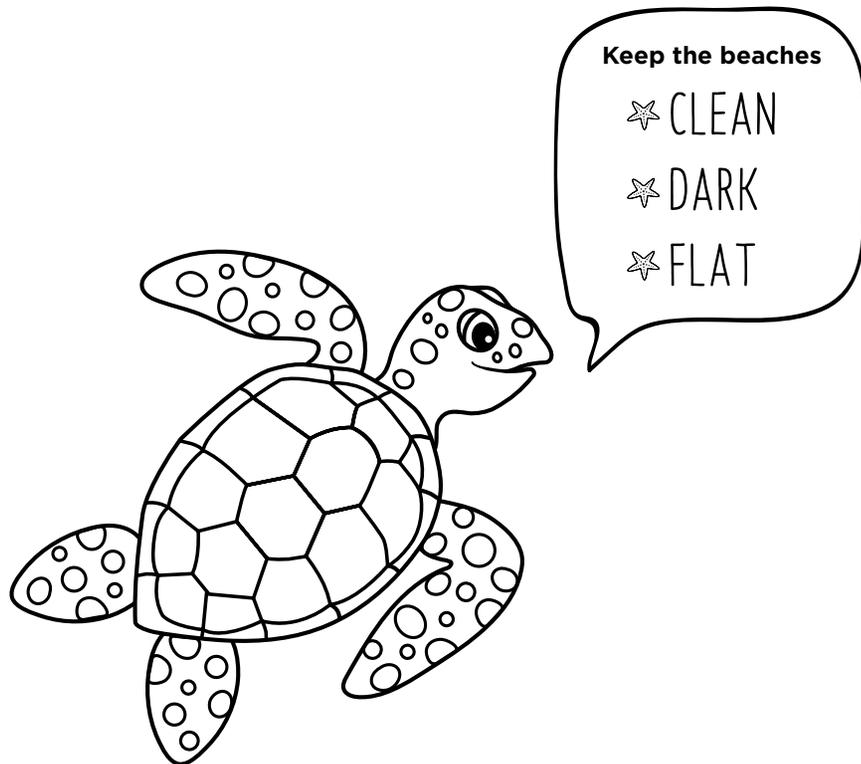
SOUTH WALTON
FLORIDA

SouthWaltonSeaTurtles.com

Sea Turtles Need the Beaches to be CLEAN, DARK and FLAT

Our beautiful beaches are home to sea turtles, and ensuring their survival is more important today than ever before. Without our help, these amazing animals could disappear forever!

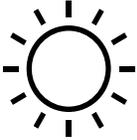
Sea turtle nesting season runs from May 1st through October 31st. Especially during this time, it's important to remember the three things you can do to make a big difference in the survival of our sea turtles:



If you find an injured, sick or dead sea turtle, or to report someone disturbing a sea turtle nest, call the Walton County Sheriff's Office at (850) 267-2000.

Man-made Light versus Natural Light

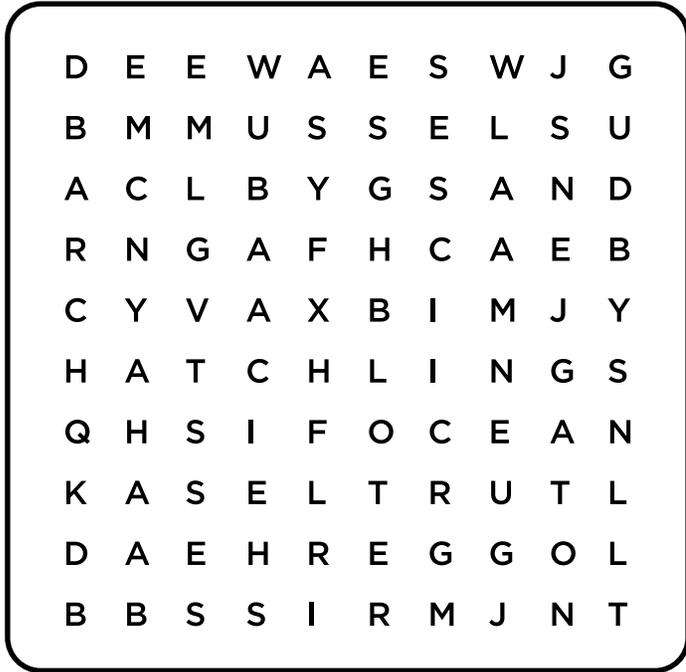
Circle all of the pictures of lighting that is man-made.

	FLASHLIGHT	
	LIGHT SWITCH	
	SUN	
	STARS	
	CELL PHONE	
	PORCH LIGHT	
	MOON	
	LIGHTNING STORM	

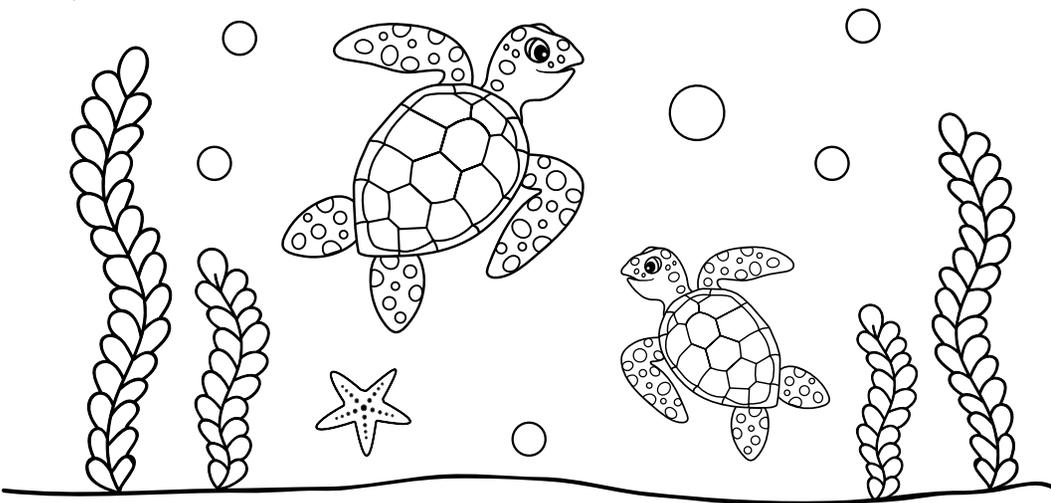
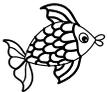
Fast Fact: Did you know? Artificial lights (like house lights, flashlights, cell phone or camera flashes, and even car headlights) can confuse sea turtles and keep them from nesting, or keep baby sea turtles from making it to the safety of the Gulf of Mexico. Remember, turtles dig the dark, so help them out by keeping the beach free from man-made light.

Stop by the South Walton Visitor Information Center to get turtle-approved flashlight covers!

Sea Turtles Word Search



OCEAN SAND SEA SEAWEED TURTLES
 MUSSELS BEACH CRAB FISH
 HATCHLINGS LOGGERHEAD



Learn How to Keep the Beaches CLEAN, DARK and FLAT



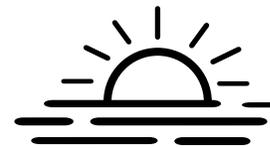
CLEAN

Remove belongings, including trash, when leaving the beach each day. Objects left on the beach can wash into the water, or cause a nesting turtle to swim away without laying her eggs.



DARK

Turtles dig the dark! Turn off lights on and near the beach, including flashlights, house lights and flash photography. Artificial light disturbs nesting sea turtles and hatchlings.

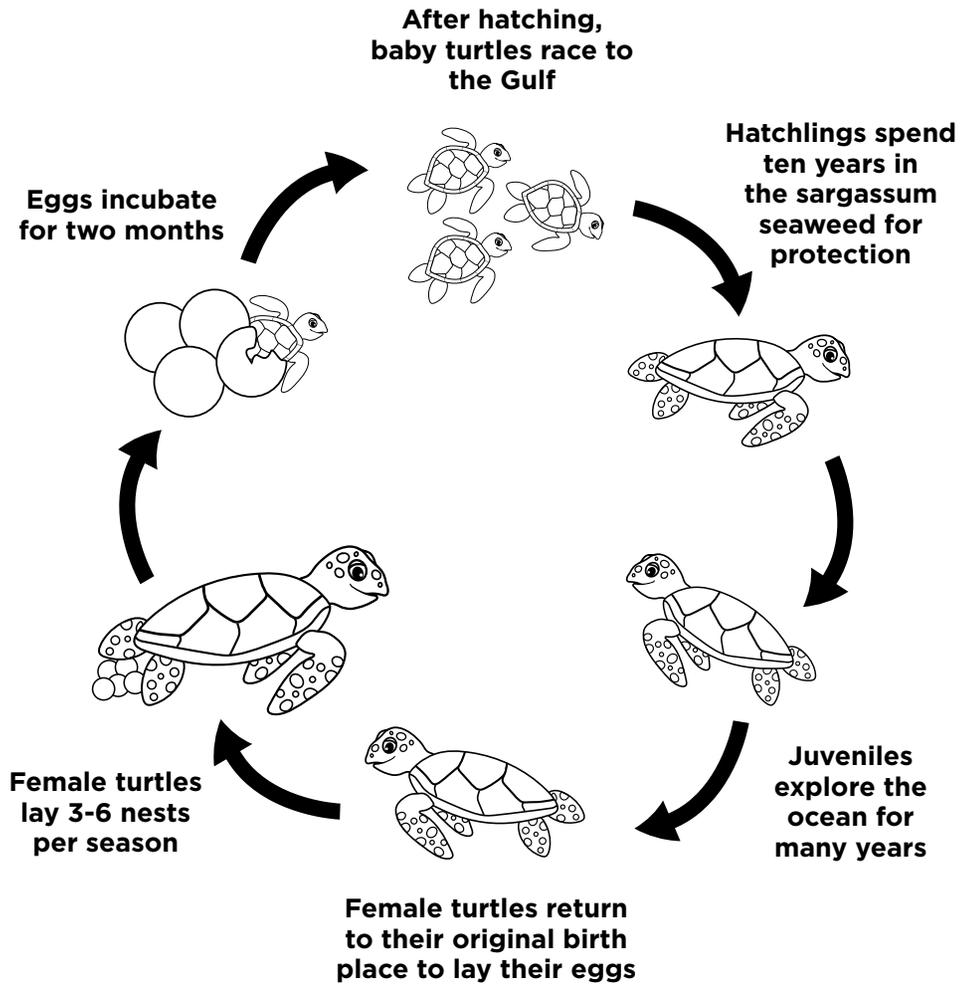


FLAT

Fill in holes and knock down sandcastles before leaving the beach. Our turtles need a flat beach to make successful journeys.

Remember #CleanDarkFlat

The Life Cycle of a Sea Turtle



Fast Fact: Only 1 in 1,000 to 10,000 sea turtle hatchlings will survive to adulthood.

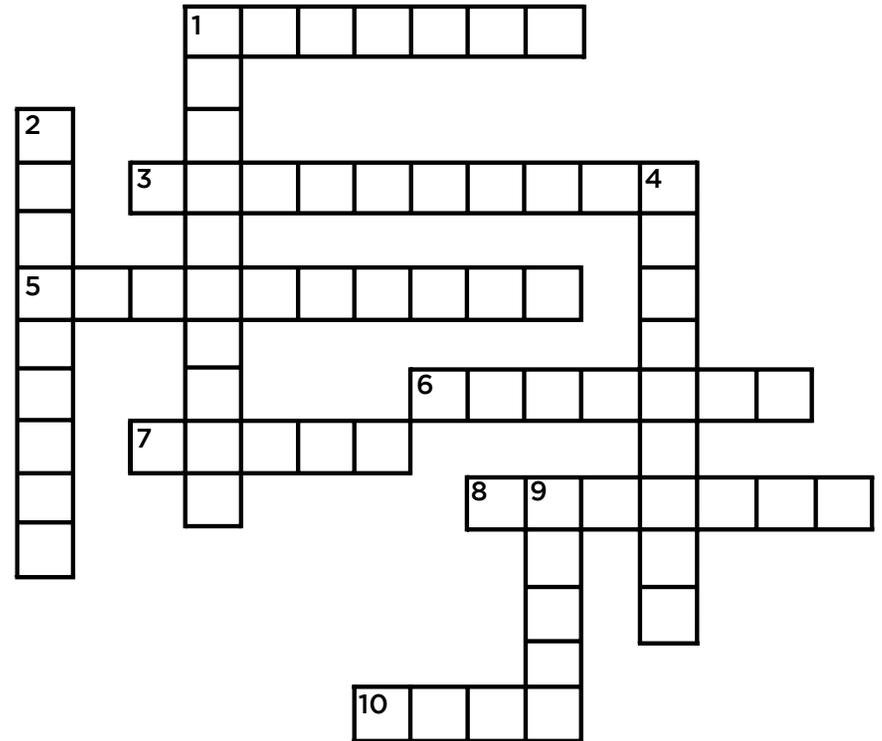
Sea Turtle Scramble

Across:

- Without protection, sea turtles could become CINETXT.
- SCLIGHTAHN emerge from their nest in the cool of night.
- Of all the sea turtles in Florida, the GOERHALGDE is the most common.
- Sea turtles can GRIMTEA thousands of miles to feed or nest.
- To protect sea turtles, we must really protect the HAECB.
- Jellyfish and floating SLICPAT look alike to a hungry sea turtle.
- A female sea turtle will only leave the safety of the water to SETN.

Down:

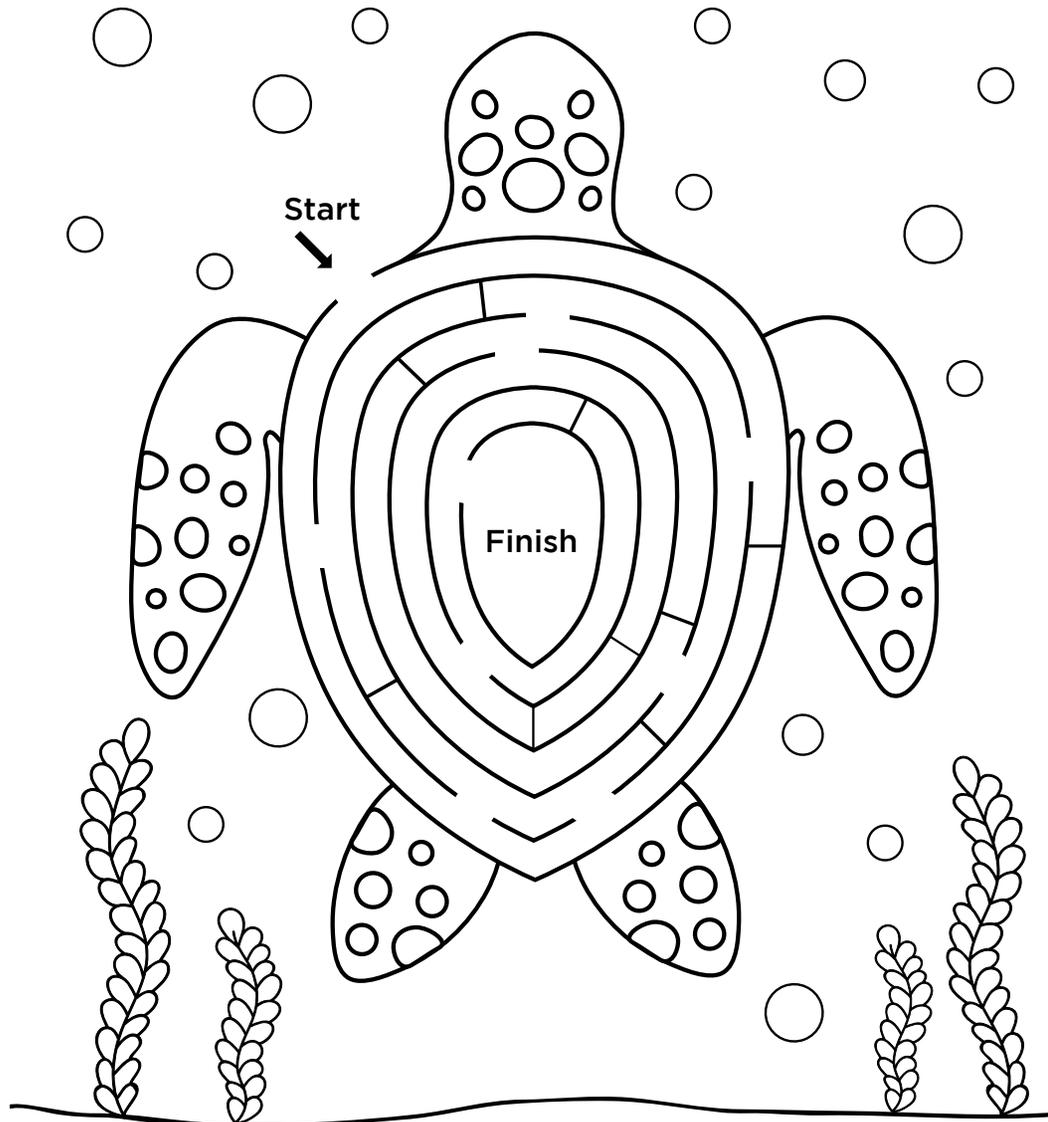
- Four of the five species of sea turtles found in Florida are GEDNEERDAN.
- LULNITOP is a major cause of sea turtle disease and death.
- Hatchlings eat and drift in GAASMSRUS weed.
- ITHLG on or near the beach can cause sea turtles to become lost or confused.



Across: 1. Extinct, 3. Hatchlings, 5. Loggerhead, 6. Migrate, 8. Beach, 9. Light
Down: 1. Endangered, 2. Pollution, 4. Sargassum, 7. Plastic, 10. Nest

Be a Sea Turtle Expert!

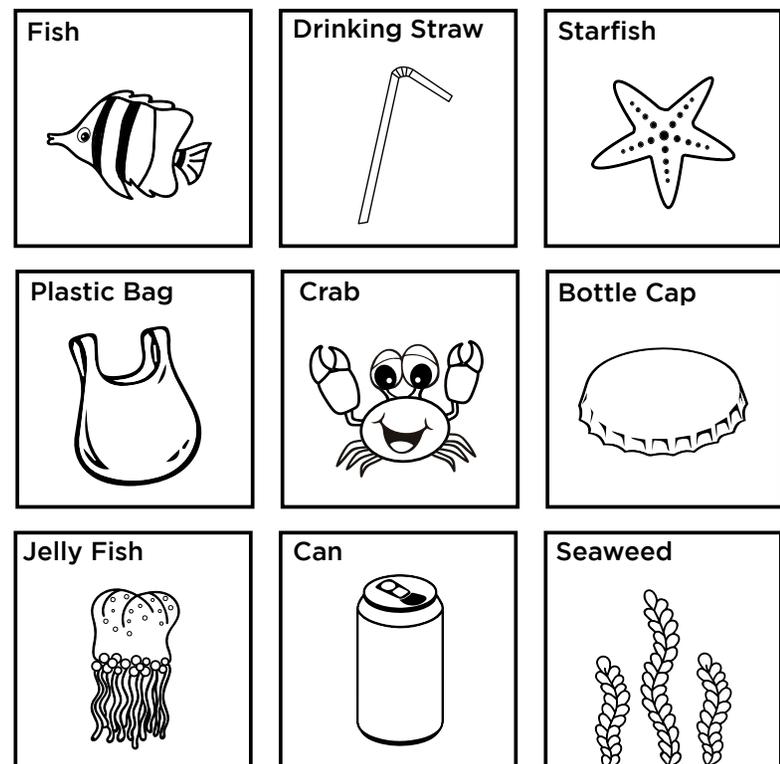
- Five species of endangered and threatened sea turtles nest on Florida beaches between May and October. These species are the Loggerhead, Leatherback, Green, Kemp's Ridley and Hawksbill sea turtles.
- When female sea turtles reach adulthood, they travel hundreds or even thousands of miles to return to the same beach where they hatched to lay their own eggs.



Four man-made hazards are hurting our sea turtles:

1. Barriers that prevent nesting or keep baby sea turtles from reaching the water (things like trash, beach chairs or holes dug in the sand)
2. Artificial lights often confuse baby sea turtles or scare off pregnant sea turtles
3. Fishing lines and nets can trap and drown sea turtles
4. Sea turtles may try to eat plastic bags and balloons they see in the water, which can choke and kill them - Don't litter!

Circle the items that should not be found in the ocean:



Remember to Leave No Trace

Sea Turtles at a Glance

There are 5 different species of sea turtles found off the coast of Florida. Can you identify them by using the following clues?

- **Loggerhead:** The Loggerhead sea turtle is named for its large head which can be up to ten inches wide. Their shell can grow as big as 3.5 feet.
- **Leatherback:** The Leatherback sea turtle is the largest and most active of the sea turtles. Their shell is known to be as large as 8 feet.
- **Green:** The Green sea turtle, named for the greenish color of its body fat, eats sea grasses. Their shell grows to be up to 3.5 feet large like the Loggerhead.
- **Kemp's Ridley:** The rarest and smallest of all sea turtles. The length of their shell measures around 2 feet.
- **Hawksbill:** The Hawksbill sea turtle, a relatively small turtle, is on the brink of extinction due to hunting for its beautiful shell. They grow to be less than 3 feet.

FUN FACT!

Loggerhead turtles are the most common of the five sea turtle species which nest on Florida beaches. This huge, air-breathing reptile can weigh up to 350 pounds. Although its heavy jaws are perfect for crushing shellfish, Loggerheads also eat jellyfish, shrimp and water plants.

