

Earth Day Science Symposium: Sea Turtles

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR SEA TURTLE CARDS

Card 1

- What protects sea turtles' bodies?
- What is the bottom side of the sea turtle shell called?
- What determines the body temperature of a sea turtle?
- In what habitats do sea turtles live?
- What do sea turtles eliminate from their bodies through their tears?

Card 2

- How long can a leatherback sea turtle grow to be?
- Why do people hunt hawksbill turtles?
- How many Kemp's Ridley turtles were left in the world in 1990?
- From what do green turtles get their name?
- What often covers the carapaces of adult loggerhead turtles?

Card 3

- What do flatback sea turtles eat?
- Where do loggerheads find their prey?
- Which sea turtle species eats jellyfish?
- What do olive ridley sea turtles eat?
- What sea turtle eats toxic sponges full of razor-sharp barbs?

Card 4

- What are the four stages of the sea turtle life cycle?
- What determines whether a sea turtle egg will be male or female?
- What is a hatchling?
- During which life stage does a sea turtle reach sexual maturity?
- What single predator threatens adult sea turtles?

Card 5

- How do male sea turtles attract females?
- What is the scientific term for the rest period between nesting seasons?
- Where does a nesting sea turtle deposit her eggs?
- What happens when a sea turtle is prevented from nesting?
- During what time of day do most sea turtles nest?

Card 6

- How do scientists study migration?
- When sea turtles migrate from their nesting beaches, where do they go?

- Which oceans do leatherback sea turtles cross when migrating?
- What is *geomagnetic navigation*?
- In addition to geomagnetic navigation, what else do sea turtles use to guide them from place to place?

Card 7

- How do electric lights on beaches affect sea turtle hatchlings?
- What is a longline?
- In addition to shrimp, what do shrimp boats sometimes catch in their drag nets?
- What is *poaching*?
- Why are ghost nets hazardous to sea turtles?

Card 8

- Which of the seven sea turtle species are listed as critically endangered?
- What is an *eco-tourist*?
- What actions have some countries taken to address the problem of light pollution on beaches?
- How do conservation groups help sea turtle hatchlings in nests that are threatened by predators or poachers?
- Why have some countries outlawed outboard motors?