

CREATURE FEATURE

This issue's featured species:

The Loggerhead Sea Turtle

The species of sea turtle known scientifically as *Caretta caretta* are called loggerheads because of their powerful jaws and large heads. These features allow them to eat horseshoe crabs, clams, oysters and mussels. Many sea animals have a hard outer shell so that other animals will not eat them. This protective shell is no match for the loggerhead's powerful jaws. Once they capture the shellfish, loggerheads crush the animal's shell to pieces and eat the insides.

Loggerheads also eat fish, sponges, star fish, and sometimes even the poisonous Portuguese man-of-war! Of course, people know to stay far away from man-of-wars and other jellyfish since their tentacles have deadly stingers, but loggerheads have found a way to outsmart the dangerous jellyfish. The loggerheads close their eyes while eating it, so they are not blinded by the jellyfish's poisonous tentacles.

Loggerheads are found all over the world in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. They are found near the coastline and also hundreds of miles out to sea. In the United States, loggerheads nest in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, but they are found (or live) along US coasts from New England to Texas.

During the summer months of May, June, July and August, Florida's Atlantic coast is the most popular spot in the country for nesting loggerheads. These very same beaches are popular for people as well.



One of the biggest problems for sea turtles is light pollution. Light from street lamps, houses, hotels, or other buildings confuses newly-hatched sea turtles. They mistake the lights of the city for light reflecting off the ocean. Many baby turtles die from exhaustion, being run over by cars or are eaten by hungry birds because they can't get safely to sea.

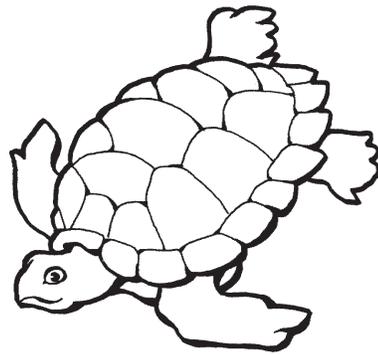
There are several ways to solve this problem, but the first and most important step is to understand it. As Turtle Tides readers you are already one step ahead of most people in understanding why beach lighting is a problem for turtle hatchlings. The next step is to teach people to turn off lights during the summer nesting season. Another solution is to use special light bulbs, which are yellow or red instead of white and do not confuse the turtles.

Solutions like these prove that people and turtles can live side by side. People like to go to the beach to play in the sun, and loggerhead turtles like to go to the beach to lay their eggs. As long as we understand that the beach can be shared, loggerheads will always be a part of our environment.

Your Own Turtle Story

What do you think this turtle is doing? With your crayons or colored pencils, draw in a background to tell a story about this turtle. Is this a female turtle getting ready to nest? Or a turtle looking for food? Is this turtle swimming with other ocean creatures? Or just looking for a place to take a

nap? Send in your completed drawing to Turtle Tides Editor, CCC, 4424 NW 13th St, Ste B11, Gainesville, FL 32609. The most creative "story" will win a prize and be featured in the *Velador* newsletter.



Turtle Anagrams

An anagram is a puzzle in which you make new words from one original word. Below are the common names of four different species of sea turtles. See how many new words you can create, we made a few just to get you started.

LEATHERBACK

1. BATHE
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

LOGGERHEAD

1. GOLD
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

KEMP'S RIDLEY

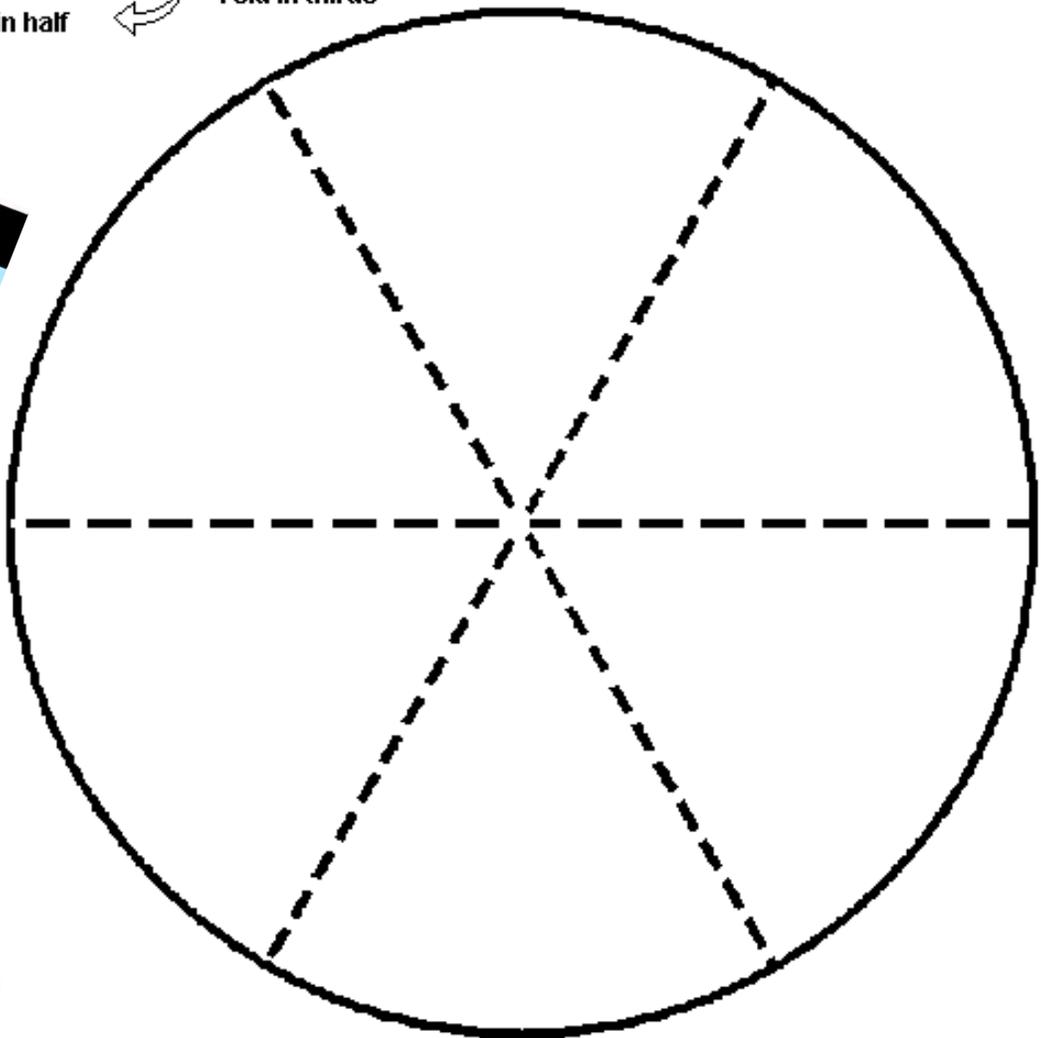
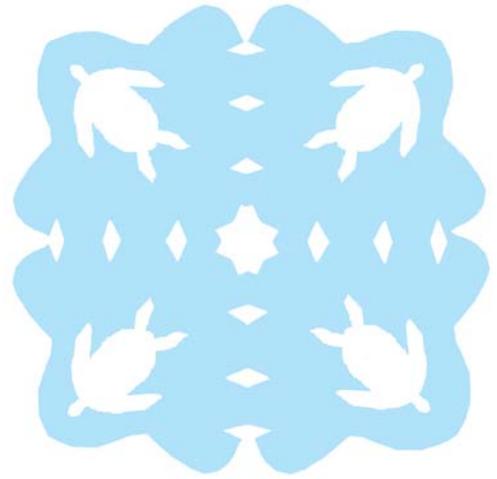
1. PILE
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

HAWKSBILL

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

Sea Turtle Snowflake

Directions: You can either use a coffee filter or a circular piece of paper. Fold your coffee filter or paper along the lines shown in the large circle. First fold in half and then fold in thirds making a triangle. Then draw half of a turtle on the right side of the triangle wedge. Cut out the turtle and any other shapes you want to add in. And remember each snowflake is suppose to be different, so have fun!!



Many thanks to our board member
Peggy Cavanaugh for the great idea!

Turtle Tides is an environmental education publication for children published by the Caribbean Conservation Corporation. The Sea Turtle Survival League and Sea Turtle KidsClub are programs of the non-profit Caribbean Conservation Corporation. Founded in 1959, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation is the world's oldest sea turtle research and conservation organization.

