

Lesson Plan

Grades 2-3

A Sea Turtle Experience



HCPS

**Benchmarks SC1.1.2.1, SC1.1.2.2
and SC1.1.2.5**



Created by Maui Digital Bus



A Sea Turtle Experience

STANDARDS: HCPS

Topic

Benchmark SCI 1.1.2.1

Generate ideas, questions, and/or predictions about organisms and/or relationships in the environment.

Benchmark SCI 1.1.2.2

Design and conduct simple investigations using systematic observations.

Benchmark SCI 1.1.2.5

Appropriately communicate their investigations and explanations to an audience.

SUMMARY / OBJECTIVES:

Students will observe live green sea turtles and use their imagination and curiosity to form questions about the animals. They will present these questions to a teacher or park naturalist and then complete activity sheets highlighting sea turtle biology and conservation.

FOCUS AREA: Making observations and forming questions



DURATION: 1 hour

MATERIALS: copies of activity sheets, drawing implements

BACKGROUND

Sea turtles are air breathing reptiles that are well-adapted for life in the sea. Their front flippers are used for swimming, while their back flippers act like rudders for steering. Their skin is protected by tough scales and they have a shell formed of fused bony plates. Of the seven known species of sea turtle, all are listed as endangered species because of habitat destruction, human disturbance, and over-harvesting. Five of these species have been documented in Hawaiian waters – most commonly the green sea turtle, or *Honu*. A green sea turtle hatchling can fit in the palm of your hand, but it may grow to 4 feet in length and 400 pounds! A female sea turtle will crawl ashore at night, dig a hole in the sand, and deposit a clutch of approximately 100 eggs as many as 5 times during the summer season. After a few months, the eggs will hatch and the hatchlings will rush to the water, spending the first few years of their lives adrift on the current, eating jellyfish and other plankton. When the turtles reach 1 ½ to 2 feet in length, they switch to a diet of algae, or *limu*, moving into shallower waters.





ACTIVITY

The students will observe the physical traits of the sea turtles in Maui Ocean Center's *Turtle Lagoon*. They will formulate questions they would like to have answered and then present these questions to a teacher or park naturalist. They will learn about the biology and conservation of these animals by completing the activity sheets provided.

ASSESSMENT: Questions formulated and worksheets completed.

EXTENSIONS: Learn the names of the other six species of sea turtles and where they live by completing the attached coloring sheets.

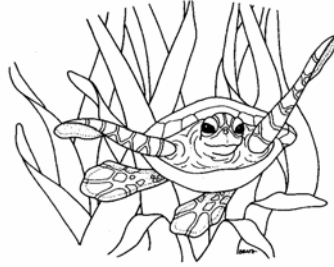
REFERENCES:

<http://www.wildhawaii.org/turtle.html>

<http://www.earthtrust.org/wlcurric/turtles.html>



WELCOME TO TURTLE LAGOON!

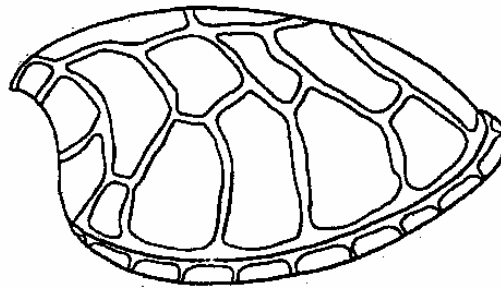


These are *Green* sea turtles.

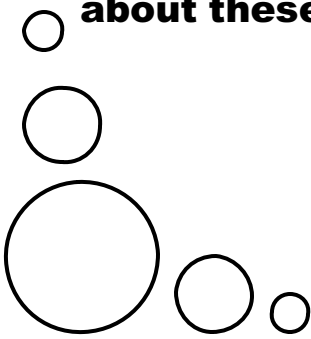
How many turtles can you count? _____

What is their Hawaiian name? _____

What is this turtle missing? Can you draw the rest?



What are some questions you would like to ask about these special turtles?



Green sea turtles are green on the *inside*.

Maybe this is because of what they eat.

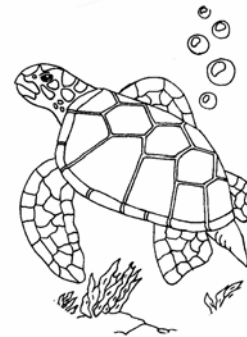
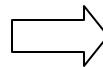
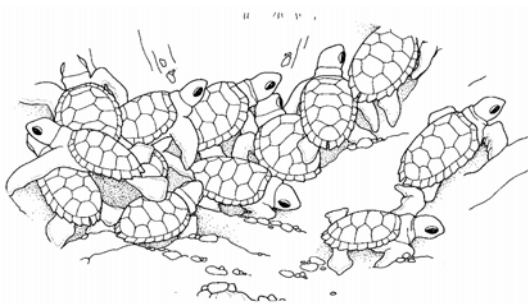
Can you circle their natural food?

**Mother Honu lays her eggs in a nest on the beach.
How many eggs do you think she lays in a nest?**

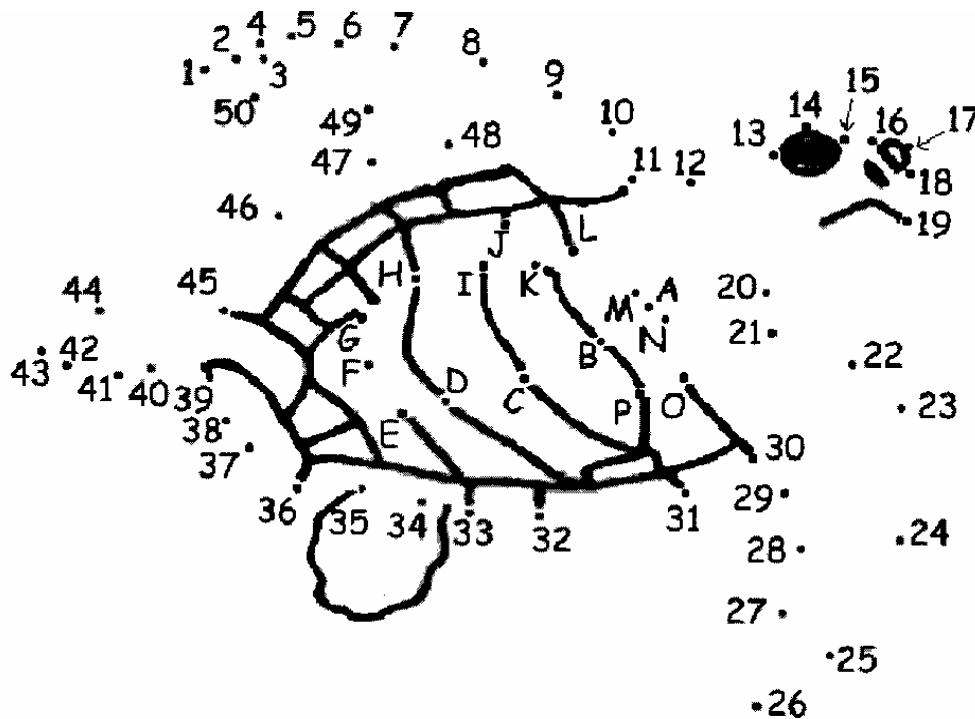
1 10 50 100 500

**After the eggs hatch, baby Honu crawl to the water.
Do you think Honu like to live in warm water or cold water?**

**Baby Honu are so small they could fit in your hand. A grown-up
Honu gets very big – as much as 400 pounds. That's like 4 - 5 of you!**



Try to connect the numbers and letters to draw your own sea turtle.



They need *your* help to stay healthy and strong.

Circle the ways that you can help protect Honu:

Don't touch the Honu.

Or

Pick up the Honu.

Throw your trash
on the ground.

Or

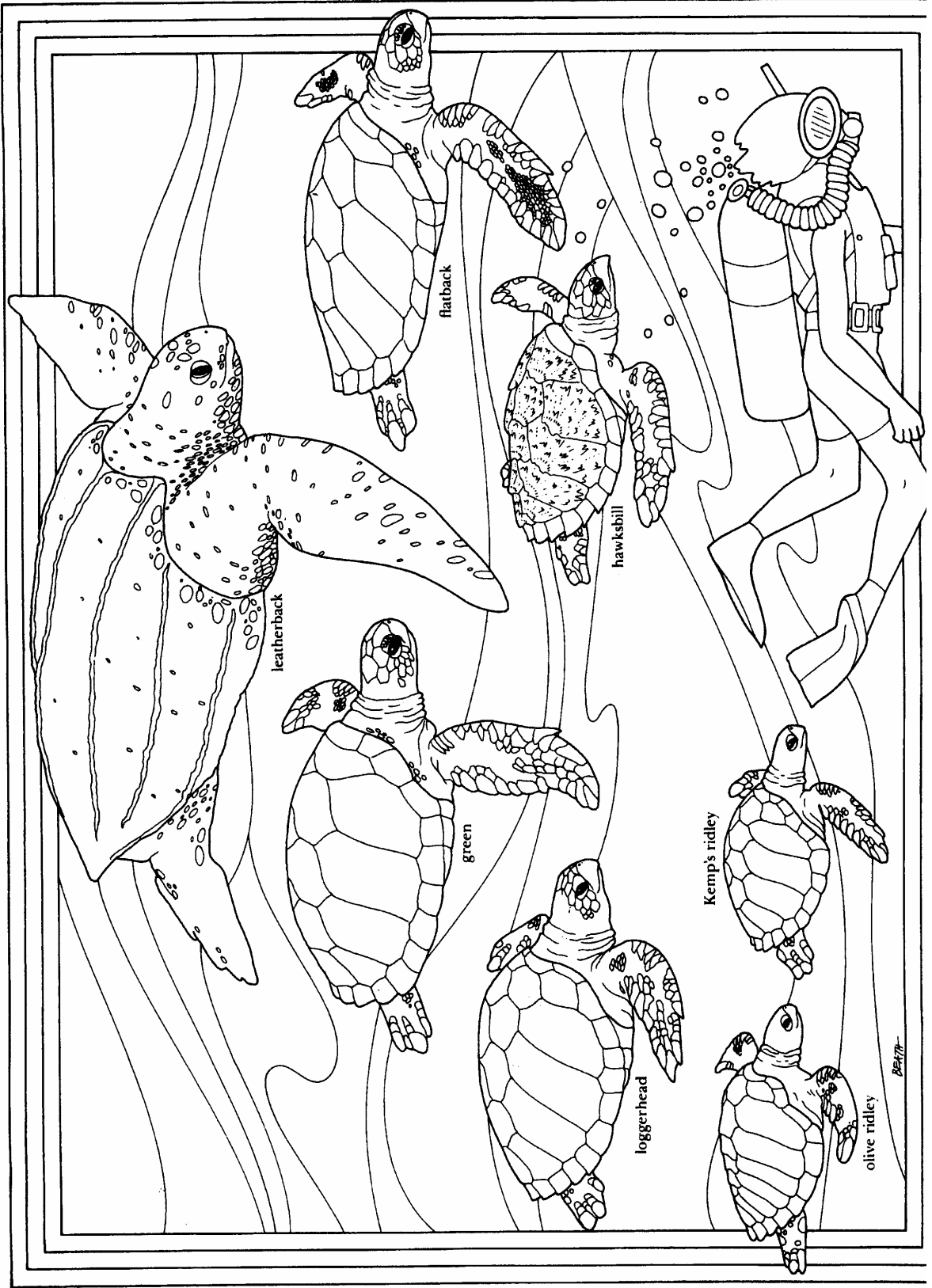
Pick up trash
on the beach.

Be careful not to step on
turtle nests near the sand
dunes.

Or

Run on the dunes.

The Honu say mahalo for your kokua!



flatback

hawkbill

leatherback

green

loggerhead

Kemp's ridley

olive ridley

BETH