

For Creative Minds - Turtle Fun Facts and Math Games

The top part of a turtle's shell is called a "carapace." The bottom part is called the "plastron." The shell is part of the turtle's body.

Sea turtles cannot pull their heads into their shells as can land turtles.

A female loggerhead sea turtle crawls onto the beach, digs a nest and lays 100 to 150 eggs. The eggs are about the size of a ping-pong ball and hatch after about two months.

The female loggerhead hatchlings that survive into adulthood will return to the same region to lay their eggs.

For the mom and the hatchlings, one way back to the ocean is to follow the reflected light of the moon or stars. During nesting season (May to October), keep outside beach lights turned off and pull down the shades at night to keep the light off the beach.

Turtles are reptiles. They are cold blooded and breathe air.

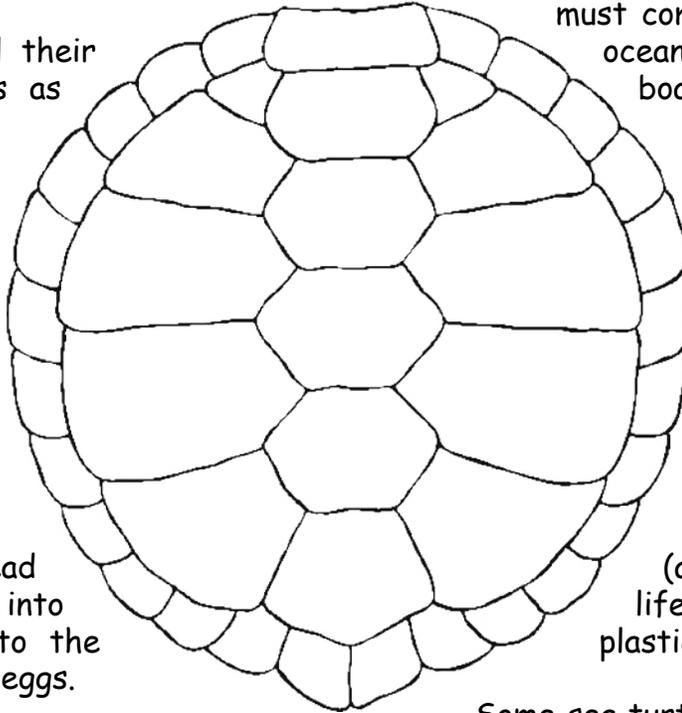
Because they breathe air, sea turtles must come to the surface of the ocean where they may be hit by boats.

Sea turtles, especially hatchlings, love to eat jellyfish (among other things) - because the jellyfish can't swim away!

Sea turtles often mistake floating plastic bags for jellyfish. The plastic can hurt the turtle (and other animals). Save a life, be sure to pick up the plastic bags!

Some sea turtles can hold their breath for up to four hours while they sleep. They like to hide in rocky areas to sleep.

A sea turtle needs sunlight to stay healthy - just like you!



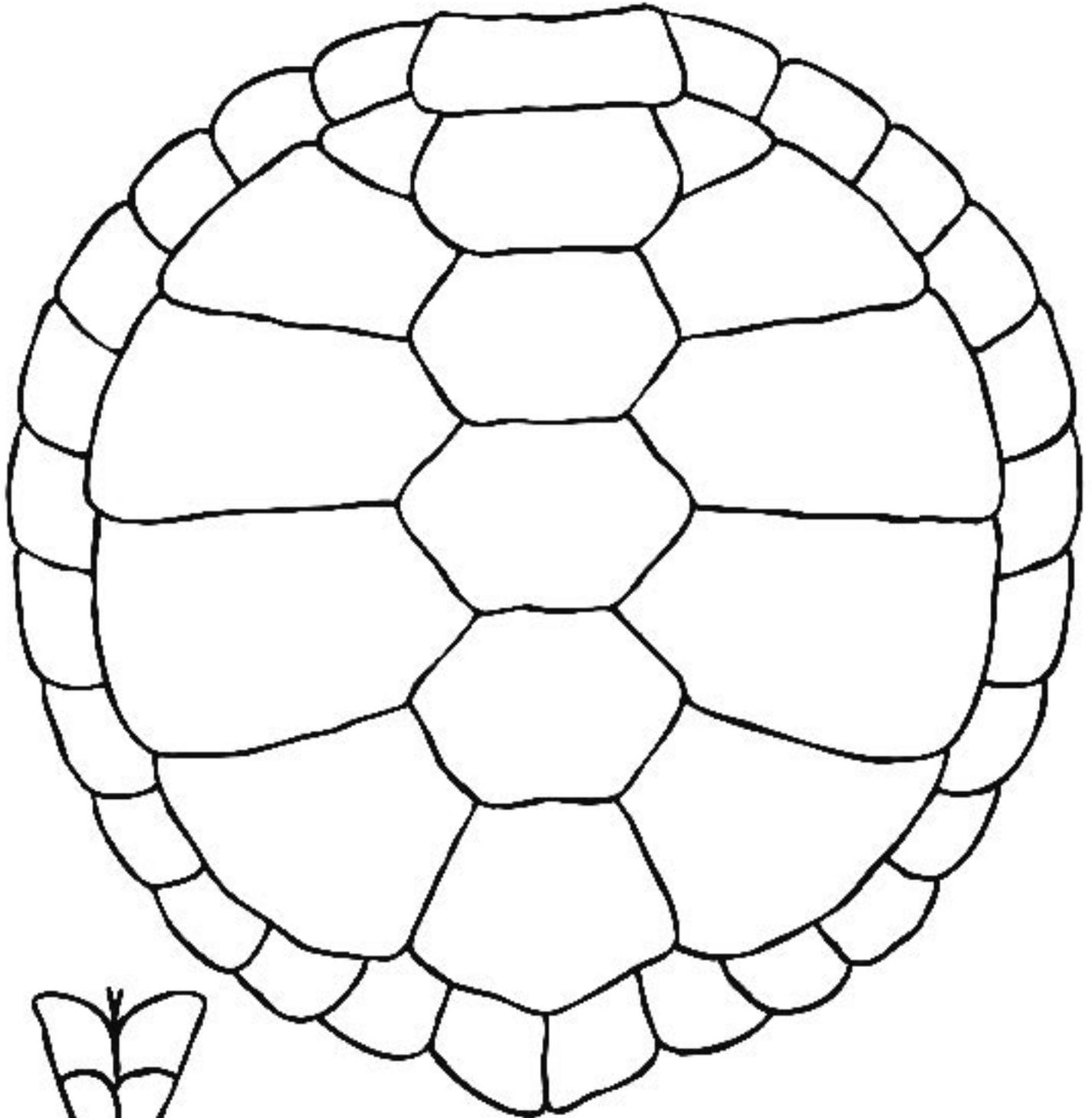
A full grown loggerhead's shell is 3 to 3 1/2 feet in diameter. Measure the height of children to determine if they are smaller than, the same as, or larger in height than the diameter of a loggerhead's shell. By how much?

A full grown loggerhead sea turtle can weigh 360 pounds. If in a classroom, have students get into a group that totals about 360 pounds. If at home, figure out how much mom, dad, and children weigh. Add friends or grandparents as needed.



For sea turtle links, photos and updates on the turtles at the Sea Turtle Hospital, please go to SylvanDellPublishing.com and click on "Carolina's Story."

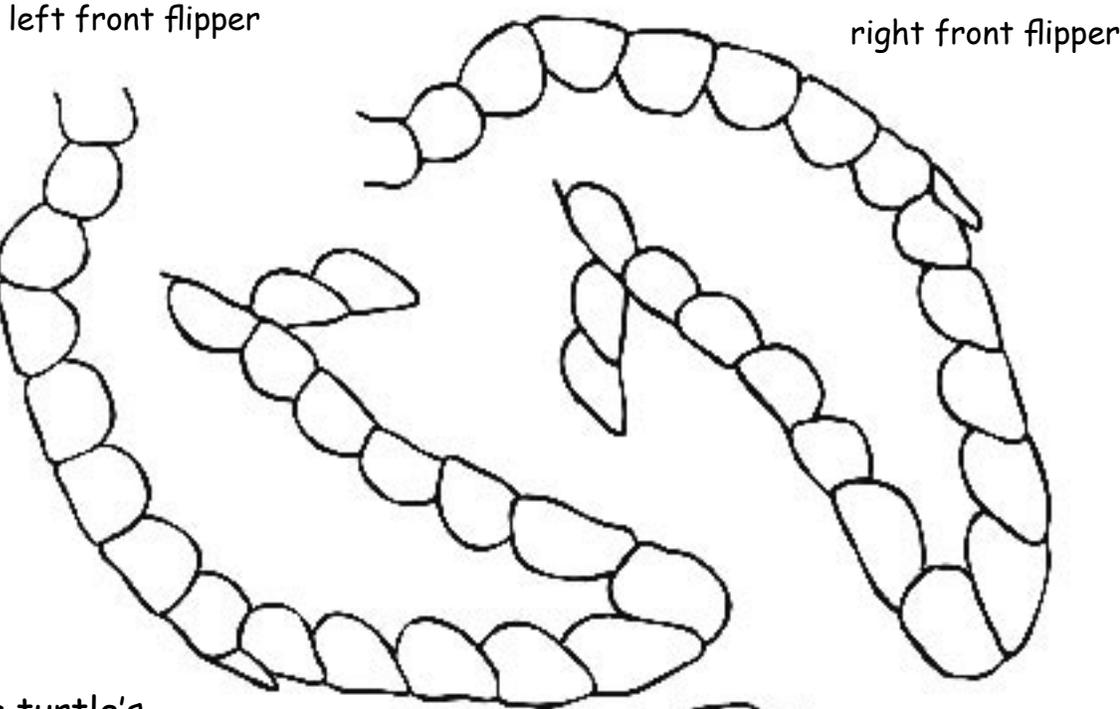
Make your own Sea Turtle



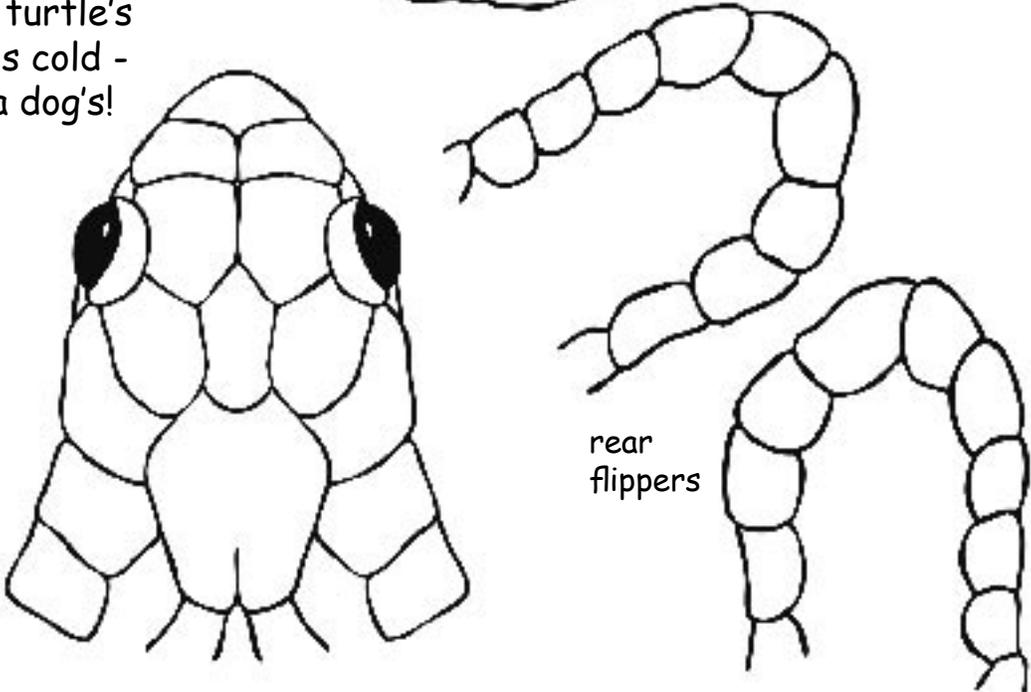
tail

Directions: Copy, trace, or download from www.SylvanDellPublishing.com - Carolina's Story these two pages and have child color. Cut out each piece and tape together. The shell may be taped or glued to a paper plate for extra stability if desired.

Sea turtles have flippers to help them swim instead of claws or webbed feet with claws like other types of land or freshwater turtles.



A sea turtle's nose is cold - like a dog's!



They use their front flippers for swimming and the back flippers for steering.

The sea-turtle craft illustrations are not scientifically accurate for a specific sea turtle.