

Green Sea Turtle

Ancient reptiles

- Turtles descend from ancient reptiles that lived and nested entirely on land. So even though marine turtles have evolved for a life in the sea, they continue to lay their eggs on land.
- Turtles come ashore to lay eggs at night because the sand is too hot during the day.
- Equipped with large, muscular limbs, their powerful front flippers are shaped like paddles. These propel them through the water, while the back flippers are used to steer like a rudder.
- They must be strong, because they can weigh up to 150 kilograms.
- Turtles dig down to a depth that will be warm enough to incubate their eggs, between 23 to 33 degrees. If it's too deep, the turtle hatchlings won't be able to make their way to the surface. If it's too shallow, a potential predator might be able to dig them up.
- A warmer nest will produce more female turtles, while a cooler nest will produce more males.
- Hatchlings (baby turtles) emerge together on the beach in one group. This confuses their predators and improves their chances of survival.

Sea turtles return to the beaches they were born, finding their way back to the same beach every year. They interpret the earth's magnetic field like a map.



“This turtle survey is part of a larger biodiversity survey. For us rangers, it’s looking after the future of our turtles.”

TOMMY WILSON
HEAD RANGER

