

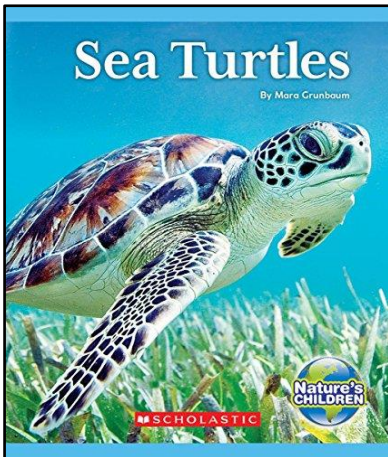
SOUNDSIDE LEARNING THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND



COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **August 10:** 806 Parlor Talk "Coastal Songs – Old & New" by Connie Mason & Friends @ 2 PM
- **October 21:** Annual Oyster Roast, 6 – 9 PM; Click below for tickets:
[OYSTER ROAST TICKETS](#)

Sound Reading Material For You and Your Child



Sea Turtles

By Mara Grunbaum

Did you know that sea turtles can live to be 100 years old or that they can migrate up to 2,800 miles from their birthplace? These amazing animals are also at risk due to pollution and illegal fishing. Learn fascinating facts like these and more, all in the pages of this book!

Pages: 48
Grades: 3rd – 5th

A Look at Loggerheads

Although sea turtles are subject to predation throughout their life cycle, it is predominantly high during the first two years of life. Highest predation occurs during incubation and the hatchlings' race to the sea. The eggs are eaten by ghost crabs, raccoons, skunks, foxes, and dogs. Hatchlings are preyed upon by mammals, sea birds, crabs, and carnivorous fishes. Predation continues to be high until the turtles are big enough to avoid being swallowed by large carnivorous fishes such as groupers, snappers, and jacks. Sharks are a formidable predator throughout the life cycle of sea turtles, although larger turtles can often avoid a shark attack by presenting the flat side of the plastron or carapace to prevent biting. Loggerhead sea turtles can live at least 30 years and up to 50 years or more.

Loggerhead sea turtles, *Carretta caretta*, are the most common species in our area. Their name comes from their large heads, which support their jaws that allow them to eat hard-shell prey. They can weigh 200 to 350 pounds and are 2.5 to 3.5 feet long. You can recognize them by their reddish-brown upper shell, yellow underbelly, and extremely strong jaws.

Although feeding behavior may change with age, a loggerhead is carnivorous throughout its life. Hatchlings eat small animals living in seagrass mats which are often distributed along drift lines and eddies. Juveniles and adults consume a wide variety of prey, mostly conchs, clams, crabs, horseshoe crabs, shrimps, sea urchins, sponges, fishes, squids, and octopuses. During migration, loggerheads eat jellyfishes, floating mollusks, floating egg clusters, squids, and flying fishes.

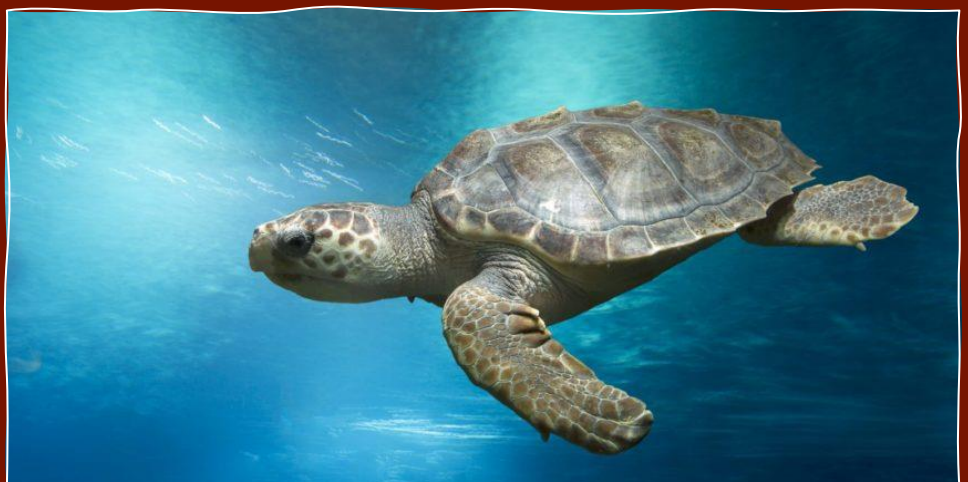


photo from <https://www.carolinadesigns.com>

Let's Learn about Sea Turtles

Click on the hatchling below to print your sea turtle activity packet!



New Beginnings

As with other sea turtles, female loggerheads return to lay their eggs on or near the same beach where they hatched. Unlike other sea turtles, courtship and mating usually do not take place near the nesting beach, but rather along the migration routes between feeding and breeding grounds.

Females may nest several times during a breeding season (May 1 through August 31), laying as many as 190 soft, round white eggs per nest. Females excavate pits using their front and rear flippers to remove the upper layer of dry sand. Then they use their rear flippers to dig egg chambers in moist sand. The eggs incubate in the sand for 55 to 62 days. The incubation period is longer when the weather is cool, and there is evidence that cooler incubation temperatures produce more male hatchlings. Hatchlings surface from the nest mostly at night. After most of the hatchlings appear from the nest, they start a frenzied race toward the surf and out to sea.

Loggerhead hatchlings and juveniles are frequently associated with sea fronts and eddies where floating open ocean animals gather. The time that young turtles remain in these places feeding and growing is called the "lost year." During this period, young turtles float on rafts of seaweed with the currents, feeding on organisms associated with sargassum mats.



photos from <https://obxforever.org/2022/07/18/all-about-sea-turtles-sea-turtle-hatchlings/>