

Turtle Trek: Sea Turtle Adaptations


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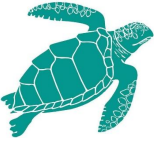
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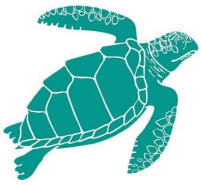


What is an Adaptation?

A change a species makes or inherits in order to meet environmental conditions and increases its chances of reproductions and survival.



Sanidine 2024



How Adaptations Help Organisms...

- Cope with climate
- Obtain food and water
- Attract mates
- Escape from predators
- And more!



Lennie 2024

Types of Adaptations

Structural

How an animal's body functions or looks on the outside

Color
Shape
Size
Body Parts

Behavioral

How an animal acts

Migration
Hibernation
Communication
Learned Behaviors

Physiological

How an animal's body functions on the inside

Breathing
Surviving in different temperatures
Chemical processes

Sea Turtle Adaptations

TURTLE OR TORTOISE?

Not all turtles are tortoises... ...but all tortoises are turtles!

Flipper

Foot

Lives in the sea

Lives mainly on land

Flat, streamlined shell

Dome-shaped shell

Eats both plants and animals

Loves veggies!

WASTE ED

Structural Adaptations

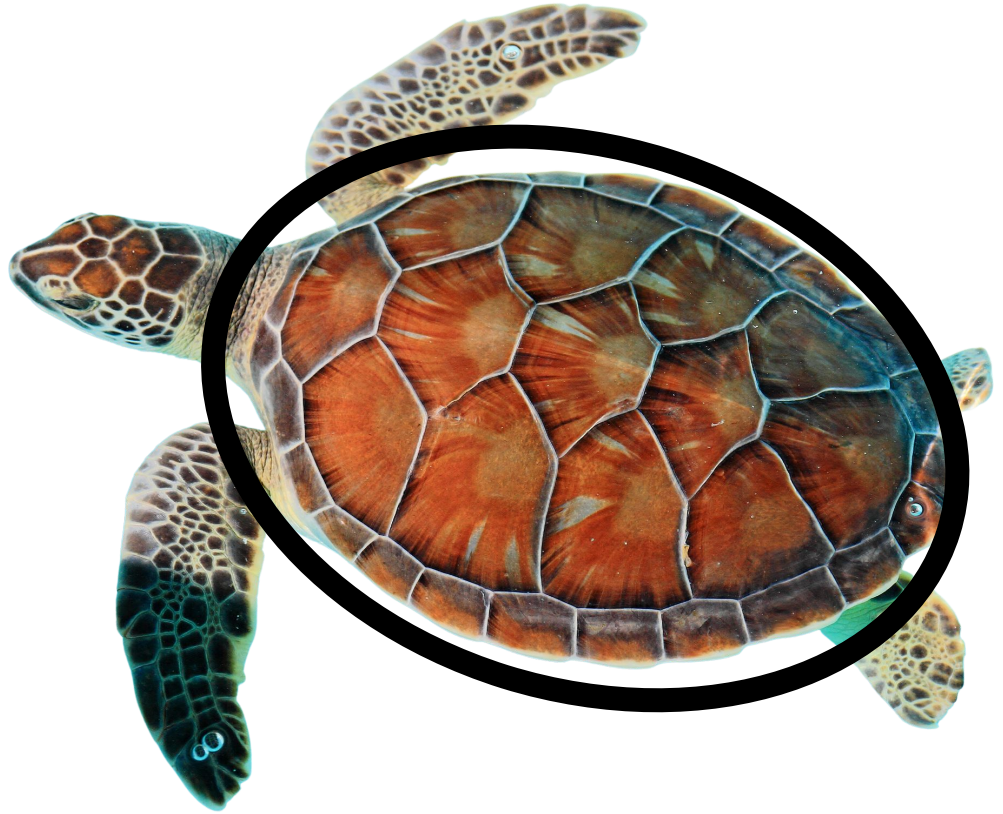
What types of **STRUCTURAL** adaptations do you see or know?



SHELL (Carapace)

Hard shell to protect
them from predators.

Shape helps them
move faster.



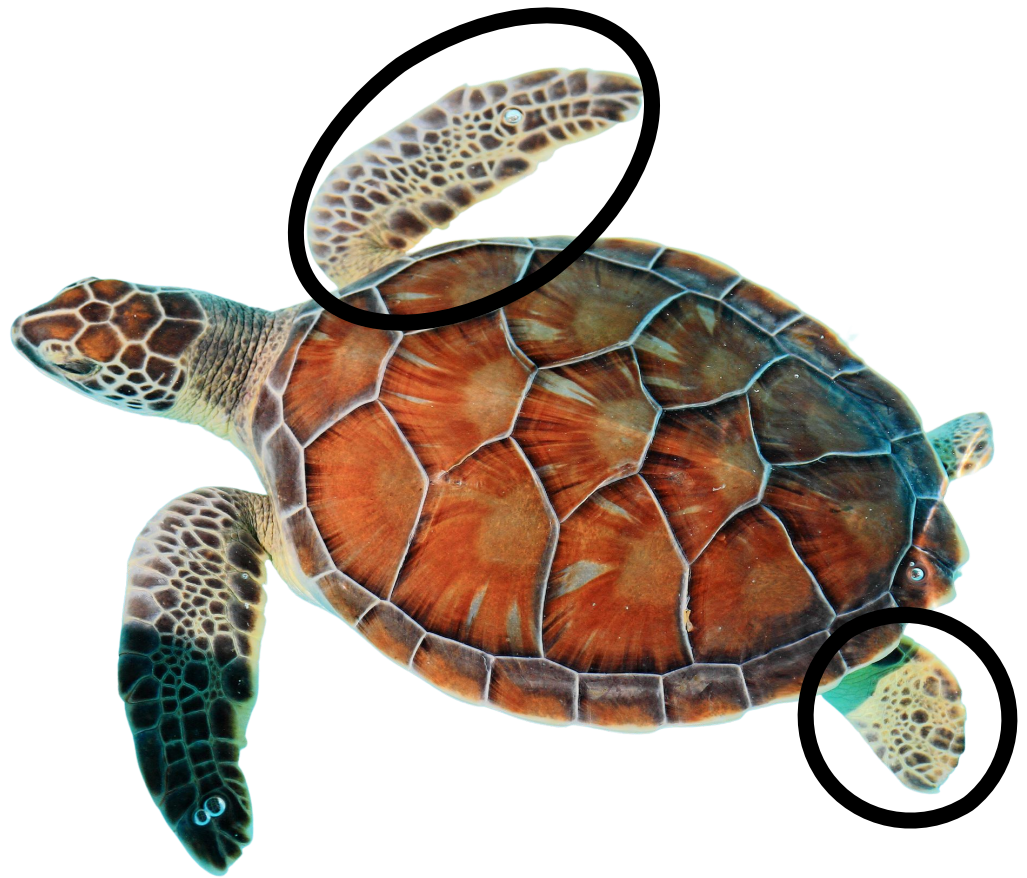
FLIPPERS

Front-

Help them swim forward and fast.

Rear-

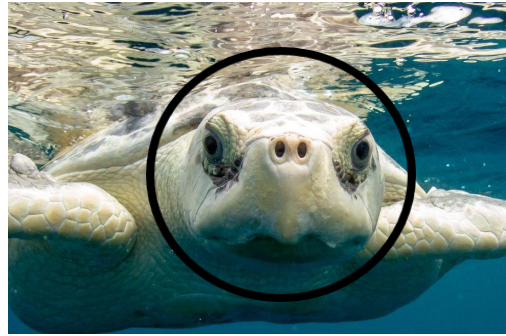
Help steer and help females dig a hole to lay eggs.



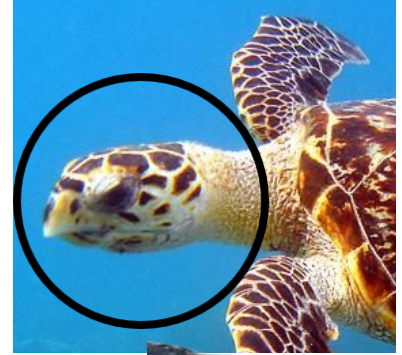
BEAK

Help them eat.

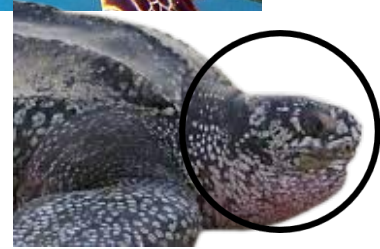
Each sea turtle species has a different beak style to help them eat.



Kaia 2023



NOAA



NOAA



Camelopardalis 2024



Big Dipper 2024



Behavioral Adaptations.

What types of BEHAVIORAL adaptations do you think sea turtles have?



Laying Eggs

Females come up to shore to lay their eggs on land.

Migration



Sea turtles will migrate to their feeding grounds.

Hatchlings migrate offshore to the Sargasso Sea

Physiological Adaptations

What types of Physiological adaptations do you think sea turtles have?



Musica 2024

Remain under water

Sea turtles store large amounts of oxygen not just in their lungs, but also in their blood and muscles.



Secrete Salt

Sea turtles need freshwater to survive.

They have tear ducts that allow them to secrete the excess salt from the salt water.



Photo Credit: Olive Ridley Project



Photo credit: Ashley Harrell/SFGATE

Basking

Some Green turtles
will come up onto
shore to bask in the
sun.

Tell me what you learned about Sea Turtle adaptations!

Structural

Sea turtles have large front FLIPPERS to help them swim FASTER and small back FLIPPERS to help them STEER/Dig a hole.

Sea turtles' shells help PROTECT them from predators and are different SHAPES to help them swim faster.

Sea turtles' BEAKS are different shapes/styles to help them eat their food.

Tell me what you learned about Sea Turtle adaptations!

Behavioral

A behavioral adaptation that sea turtles have is LAYING EGGS on land to protect babies from predators in the ocean.

Sea turtles also MIGRATE to forage for food or be farther away from predators.

Tell me what you learned about Sea Turtle adaptations!

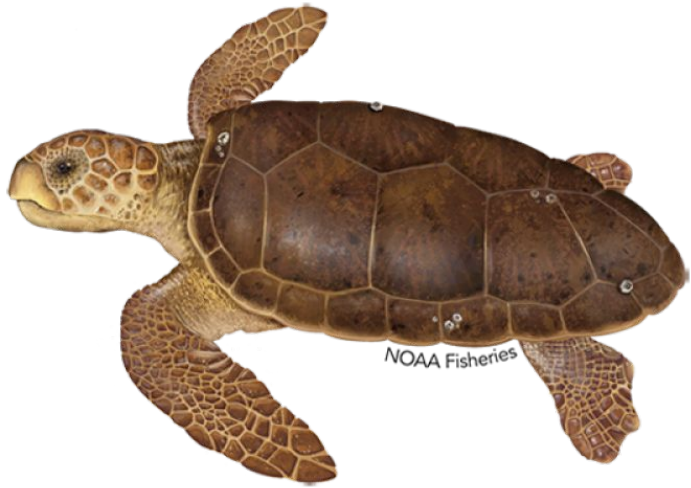
Physiological

Sea turtles can stay UNDER WATER for LONG periods of time. They hold oxygen in their LUNGS, BLOOD, and MUSCLES.

Even though they live in the ocean they need FRESH water to survive. They do this by secreting SALT through their TEAR DUCTS

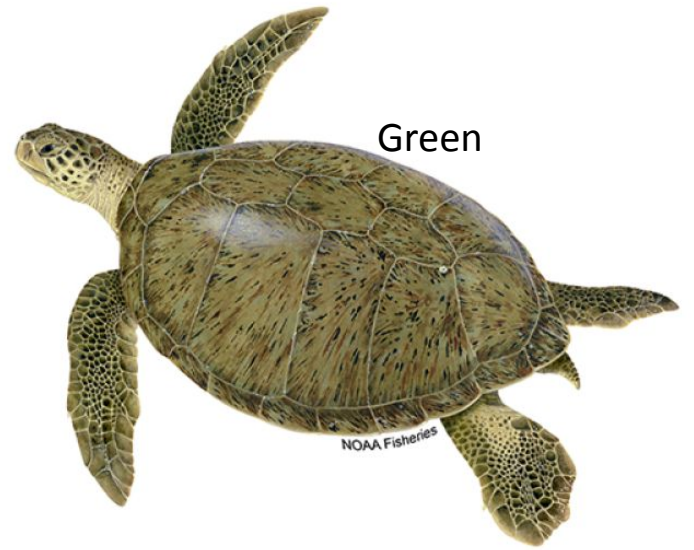
Now you know more about Sea Turtle Adaptations!

Any Questions?

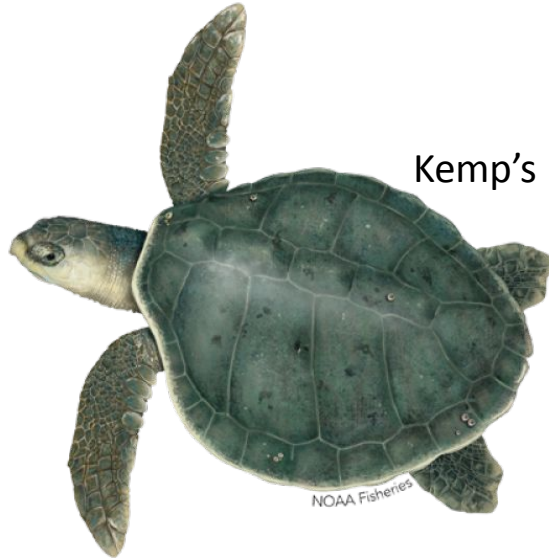


Loggerhead

Take a look at these 3 species that you will see at the hospital during your visit.



Green



Kemp's Ridley

What are some adaptations that are different between each of these species?

What are some adaptations that are the SAME between each of these species?