

# Turtles



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# Chapter 1

## Life cycle

1. The mother turtle goes to a beach and starts digging a hole.

It will have to be at least a metre deep so as to fit the clutch of 100 eggs and for extra protection against predators.

The female will then drag herself into the water and swim away.

The chances of them meeting again is 1 in a million.

## 2. The Run For Life

As the turtles surface it's every hatchling for themselves.

With 400 little flippers digging it doesn't take too long to get through, but once they're on the ground they are on target by anything from crabs to sea gulls.

Because of this threat less than half the clutch will reach the water.



### 3. Mating

When the turtles have matured they face the challenge of finding a mate.

The mating season take place when there is a big change in the weather. Scientists believe that this is due to the fact that the weather can alter a turtles gender.

Cold weather = Male

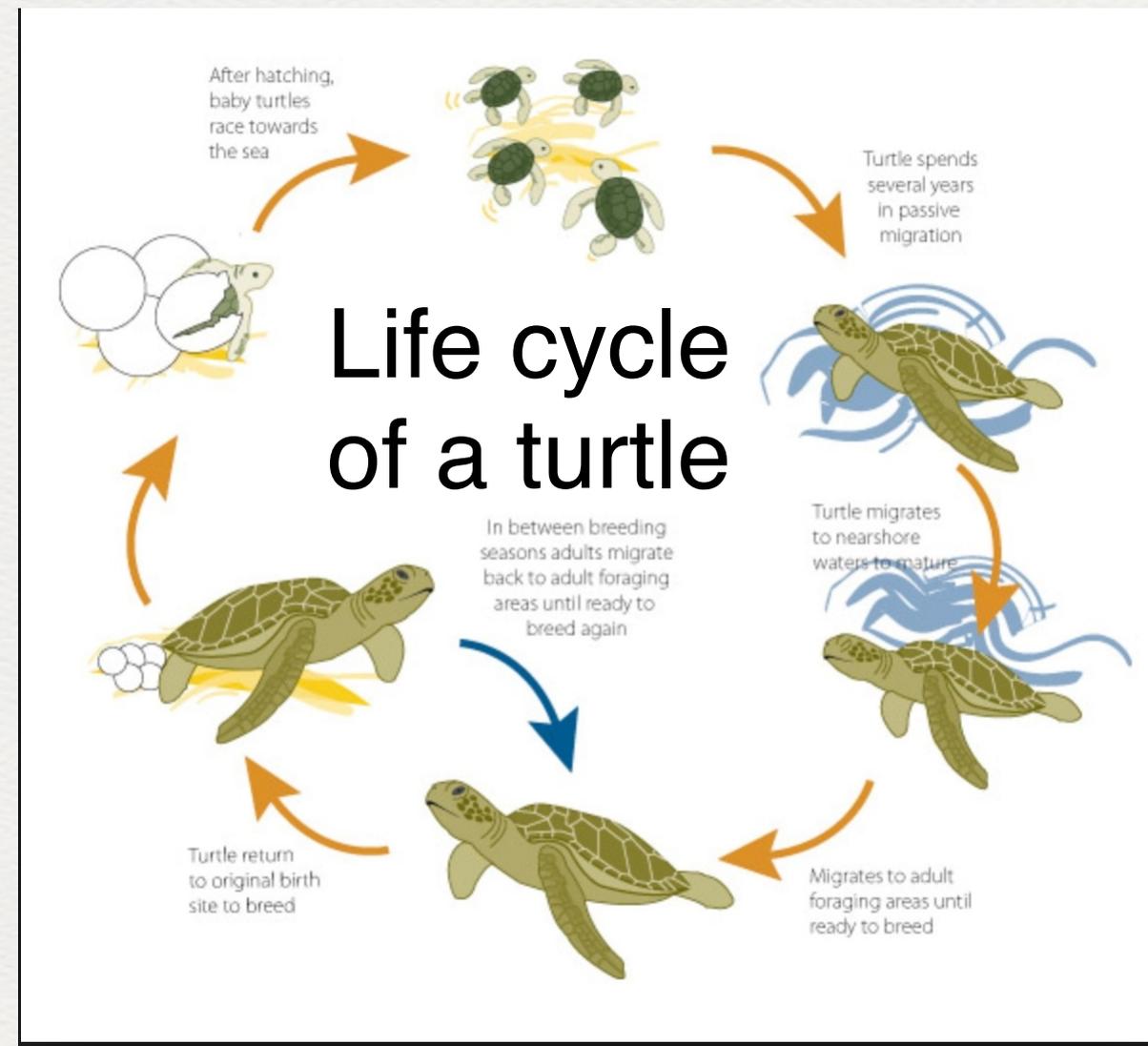
Warm weather= Female

Once a turtle has found a mate the male hangs to the back of the female for up to 24 hours until they break up finding a new mate.

A female will mate until she has enough sperm to carry eggs.



4. The female will then return to the beach she was born and start the cycle all over again.

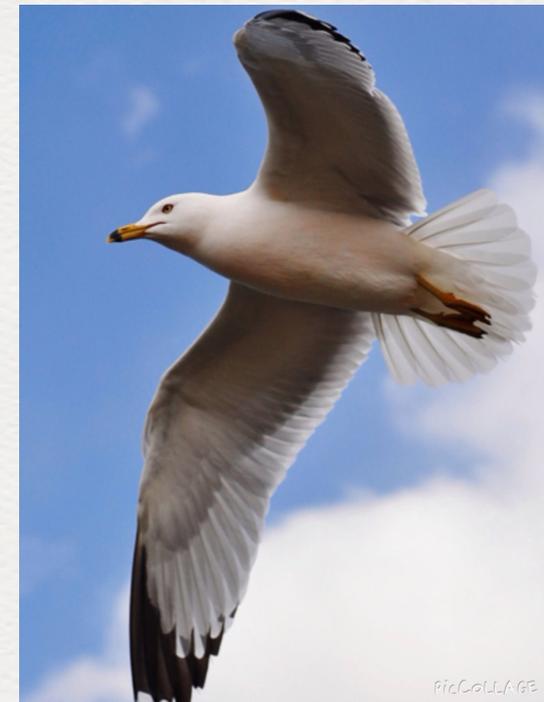
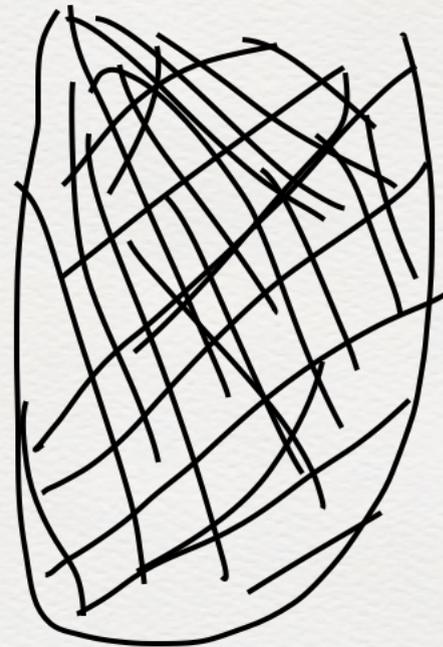


As turtles prey on things like fish, krill and other marine organisms they are pretty low on the food chain. This leaves them vulnerable to many dangerous predators.

As a hatchling just out of the egg they have to face crabs, seagulls, they even have to be careful of feet !

Other than animals and people turtles have man made hazards as well. Because of illegal fishing turtle numbers have decreased .

Illegal nets is one of the worst threats to turtle life. In the U.S almost 4600 sea turtles are killed by nets per year. The issue is that the nets are made to catch fish but when a turtle is caught they have no chance of escape. This is why some,are endangered



# Species

There are many different types of turtles like:

Long necks

Alligator/American snapping

Lether back

Green sea

Box

Pig nosed

Indian peacock soft shell

Here are some examples ▶▶



Long neck



Alligator snapping



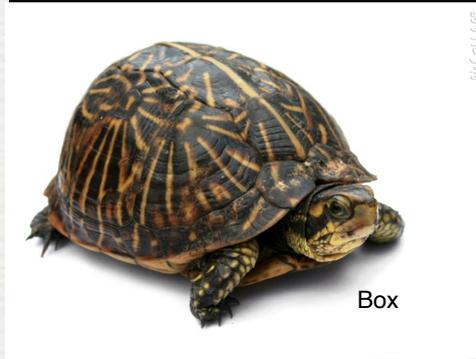
American snapping



Lether back



Green sea turtle



Box



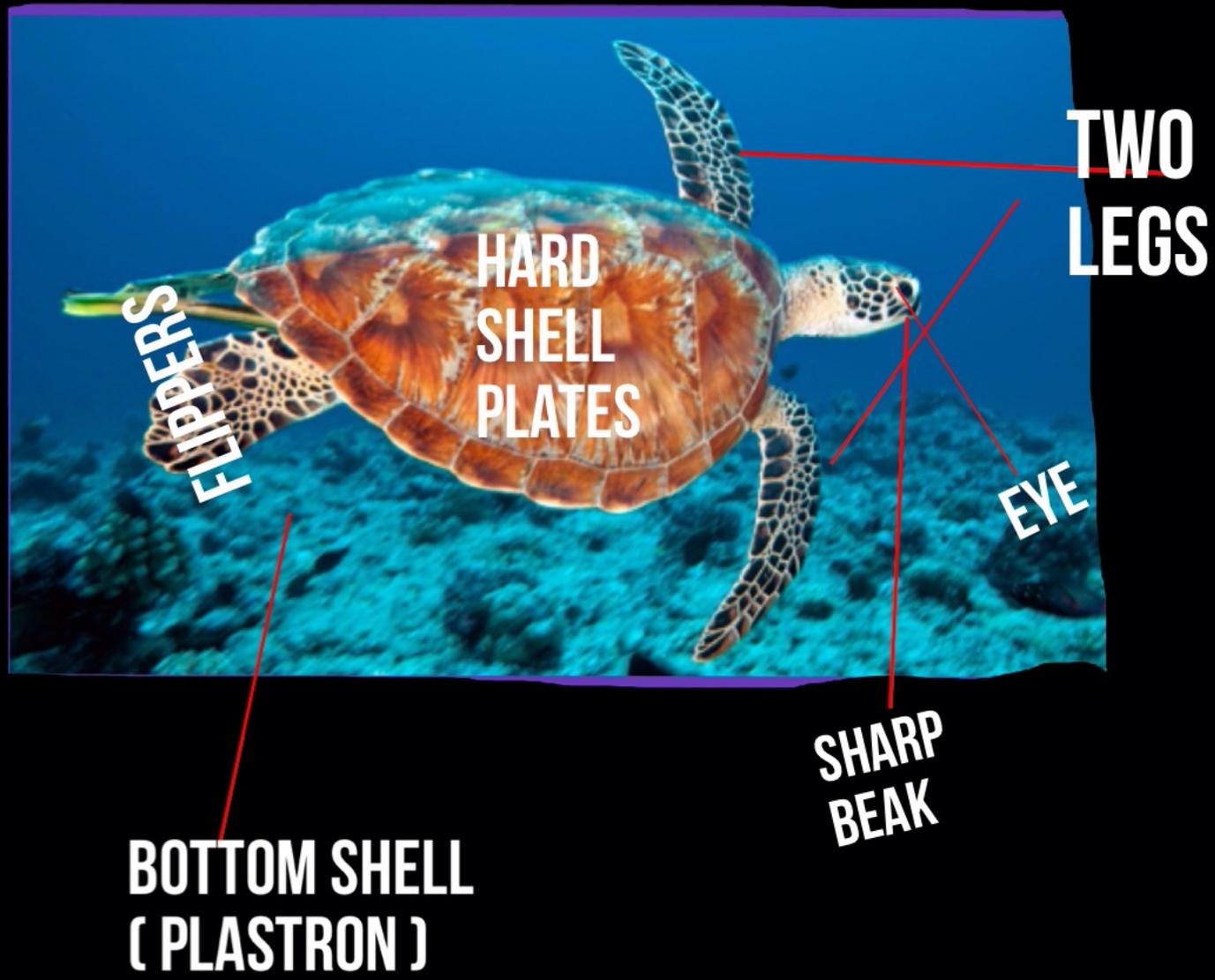
Pig nosed



Indian peacock softshell

# Labeled diagram

PICCOLLAGE



# Facts

- A turtle can lay up to 100 eggs in a clutch



- A mother turtle goes to the same beach that she was born to lay her eggs

- Turtles belong to the reptile family and all reptiles have cold blood. ( but most are quite friendly )

- Turtles have a shell to protect their stomach which is called a plastron

- Sea turtles have special glands to remove salt from drinking water

- The leather back turtle can weigh over 900 kg!

- Turtles have been around for over 215 million years!



# Life on the edge

As mentioned on pages 8-9 most turtles are endangered.

This means that their life is being threatened and there are hardly any left of their species.

Some ways you can help is pick up rubbish even if it isn't yours, and buy things that have the sustainably sourced fish logo on it.



Thank you



