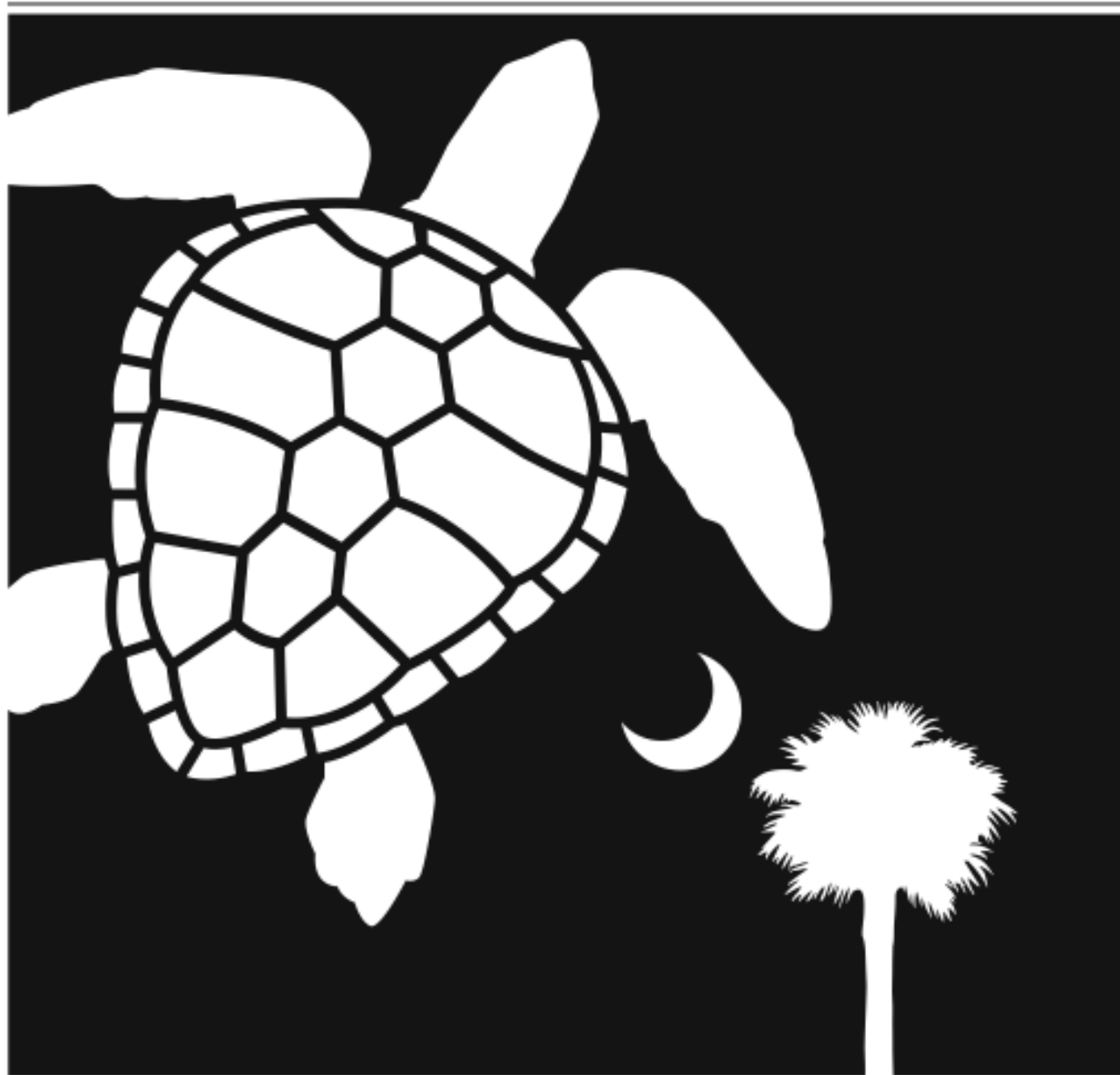


The Loggerhead Sea Turtle

South Carolina's State Reptile



Coloring Fun and
Activity Book

FACT FUN!

- *Loggerheads are the most common species of sea turtle in the ocean off of South Carolina.
- *Loggerheads are named for their large head and have powerful jaws that allow them to eat heavy shelled clams, crabs and whelks.
- *The top shell of sea turtles is called the carapace.
- *Adult female turtles come onto the beaches at night and dig a hole with their back flippers to lay their eggs. Sometimes this takes several hours!
- *Over 2,000 loggerhead nests are laid on SC beaches each year but only 1 (one) in 1000 hatchlings will survive to adulthood.
- *Loggerhead hatchlings (babies) are about 2 inches long when they hatch from the nests and crawl towards the brightest light in the sky. This light used to be the glow on the ocean but now is usually from houses, streets or cities.
- *The loggerhead population is threatened, mostly due to human impacts such as pollution, beach development, fishing pressures and boat strikes.
- *Natural predators of sea turtle eggs and hatchlings include fire ants, ghost crabs and raccoons. Natural predators of adult sea turtles are sharks.
- *Just like you and I, sea turtles have lungs. They have to come to the surface of the ocean to take a breath and can hold their breath for a very long time. But if they get caught in fishing nets, they could drown.
- *Turtle excluder devices (TED) are devices in shrimp nets that allow the turtles to escape so they won't drown.
- **Caretta caretta* is the scientific name for loggerhead.
- *Sea turtles are some of the most ancient creatures. The oldest sea turtle fossils found to date are 112 MILLION years old!
- *We all can help to save loggerhead sea turtles and other species of sea turtles!

Word Search

The words are found down, across and diagonally. Many of the words are also defined in the glossary at the back of the booklet!

l x i p r o t e c t e d e o d k r o
i x w k c g j e e f j h n e b t a g
g r b t g g m c k b e a c h w j c a
h c a v t f e h a t e c z c s f c r
t l d e z l v b i c k s b o p w o b
s t c y n a o w o o q r c n u e o a
a h d e p d j e l l y f i s h s n g
m r w b a e a k n t a s j e e j s e
e e i o l j a n l o g g e r h e a d
c a r a p a c e g g d r z v l k g c
e t l t e q t l e e o j r a x a t w
q e j s l u f o a h r e p t i l e r
h n e s t c q p i t r e p i n m r d
p e v m r z a q t r s r d o f q p s
f d p l a s t i c b a g s n s r b d

Threats

lights
boats
garbage
plasticbags
raccoons

Status

protected
endangered
threatened
conservation

Biological

nest
reptile
loggerhead
jellyfish
eggs
ocean
beach
carapace

Connect the dots to reveal one of the only natural predators of adult sea turtles!



What am I?

Rearrange

Using the words below, rearrange the letters to create new words!

LOGGERHEAD

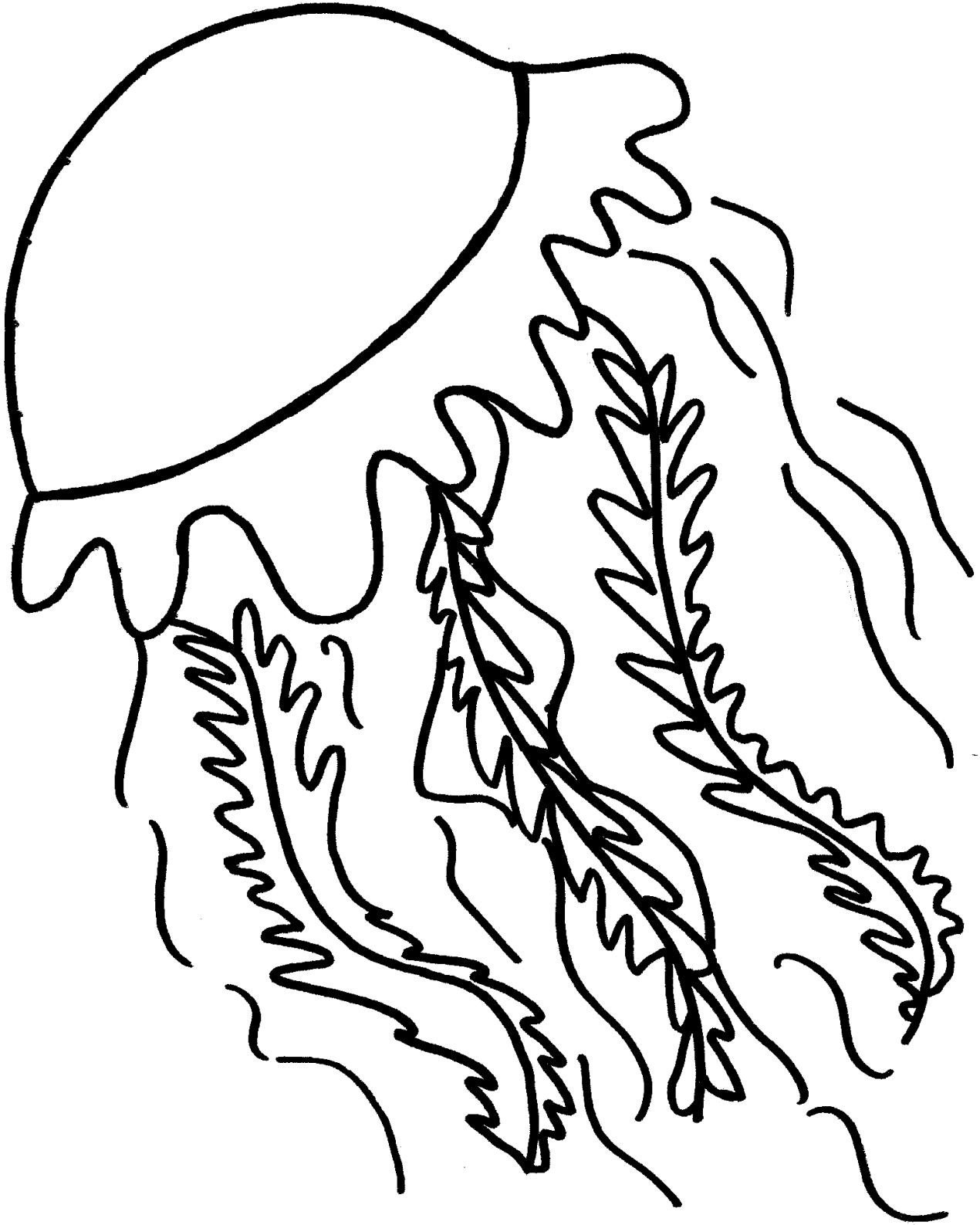
SEA TURTLE

JELLYFISH

NESTING SEASON

REPTILE

Most all sea turtle species eat jellyfish! Things such as floating balloons and plastic bags look like jellyfish in the water and sea turtles often mistake them for food. Don't litter the beach or anywhere!



Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to make words related to sea turtles.
Put the letters with numbers in the correct space at the bottom to
get the genus & species (or scientific name) for "loggerhead".

RTTEUL

1

XELCRUED

2 3

IECDEV

4

Hint: These 3 words together have the abbreviation TED.
A TED is a mechanism used to keep loggerheads out of shrimper's nets.

PACRAECA

5 6

Hint: The top shell of a sea turtle

TNEHRETADE

7 8

Hint: The South Carolina status of the loggerhead

OCOCNAR

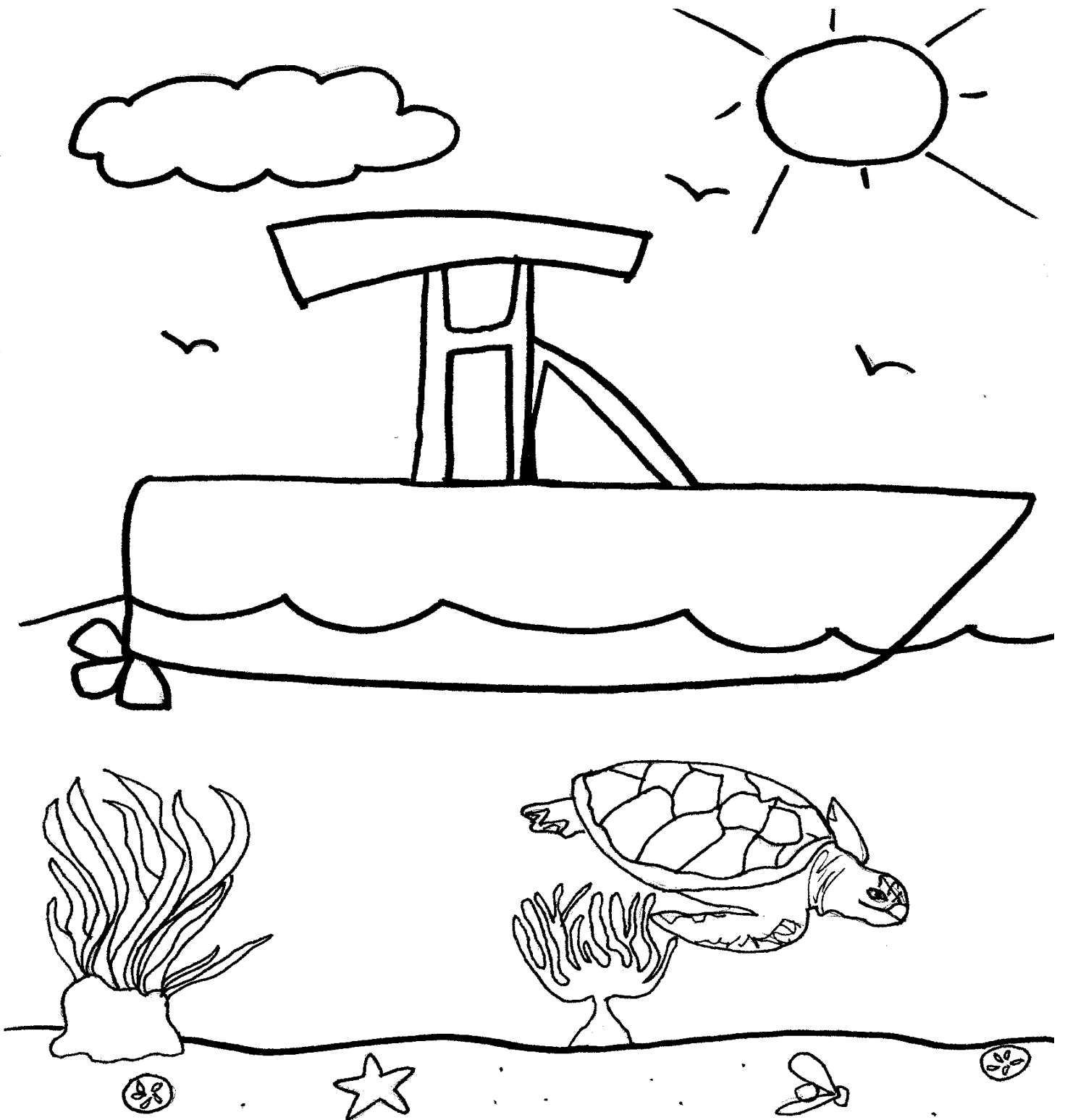
9

Hint: Attacks turtle nests and eats the eggs

LOGGERHEADS ARE SCIENTIFICALLY REFERRED TO AS:

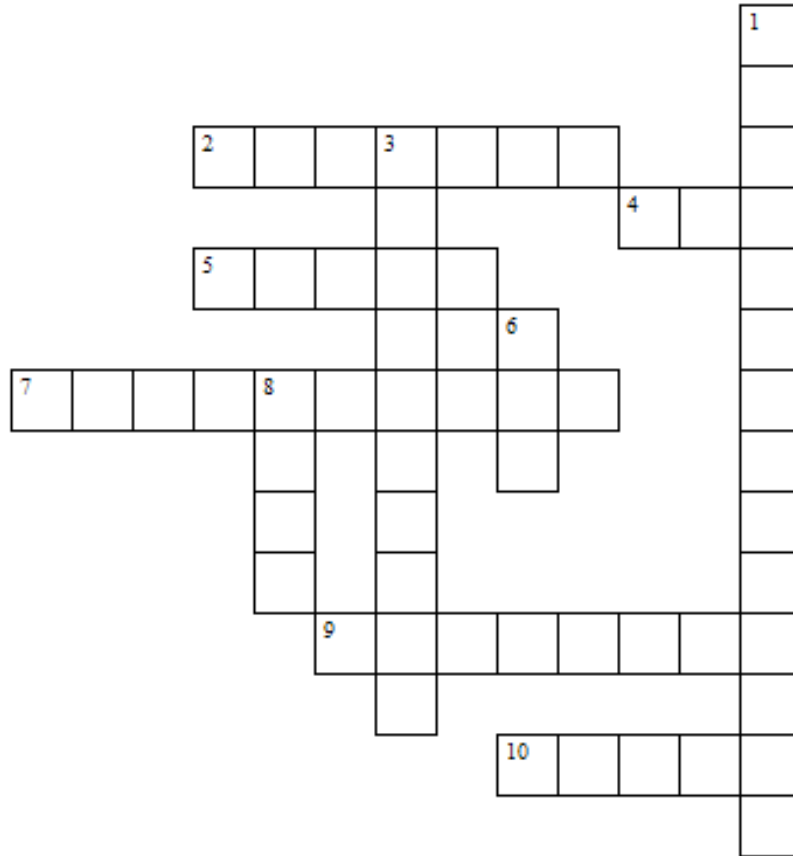
2 6 3 4 1 1 6 5 6 9 7 8 8 6

Boats are a huge threat to sea turtles. Since turtles have to come to the surface to breath, they often get hit by boaters who are not aware of their presence. Just remember: the ocean is their home!



Cross-Word Puzzle

Figure out as many of the clues as you can.
If you need help, flip through the book to find all the answers!

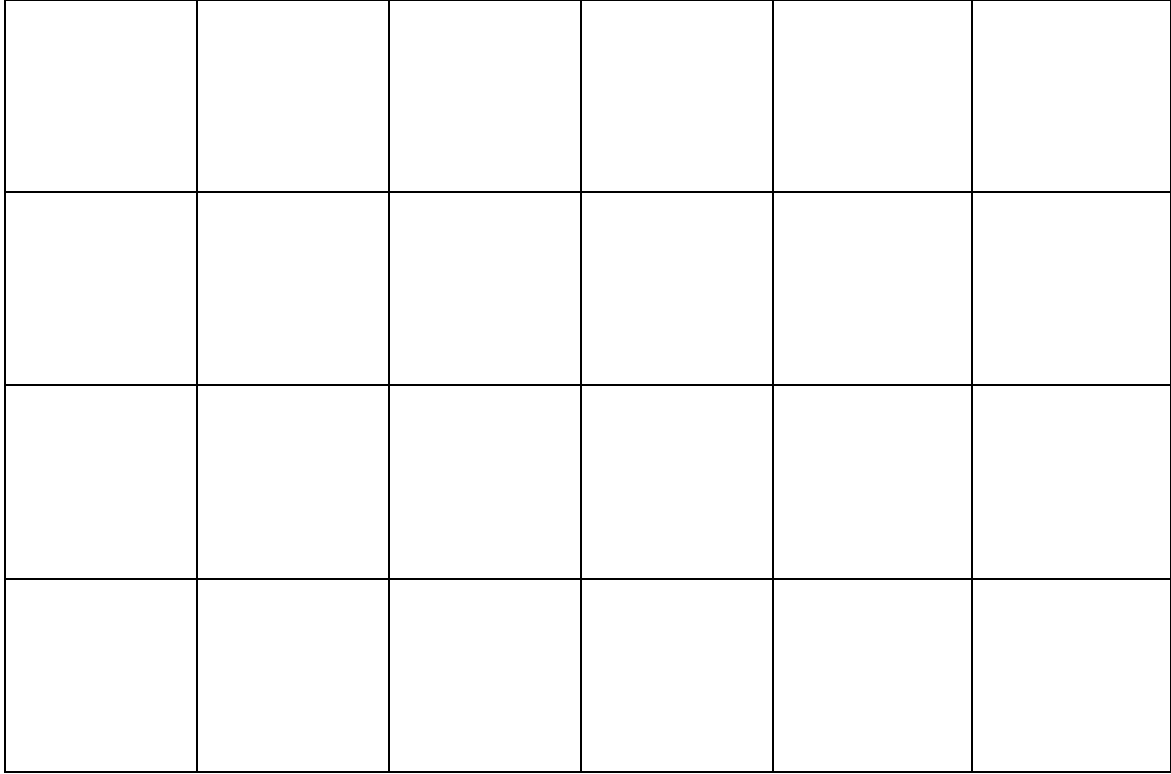


ACROSS

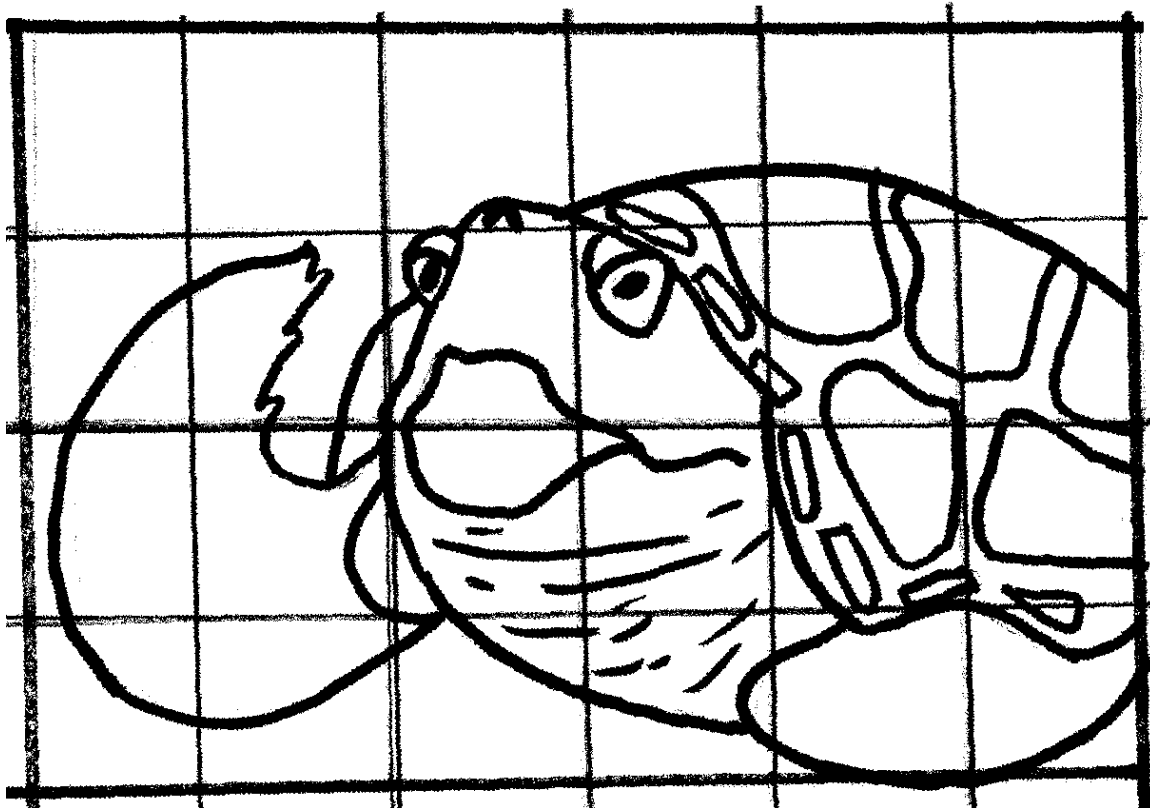
2. The oldest sea turtle fossils found to date are 112 _____ years old!
4. Only _____ in 1000 loggerhead hatchlings will survive to become an adult.
5. Sea turtles have these just like humans, except they live under water so they have to come to the surface in order to breathe.
7. Although the loggerhead is no longer endangered, they are still _____.
9. The top shell of a sea turtle is referred to as _____.
10. Adult female turtles come onto the beach at _____ to lay their eggs.

DOWN

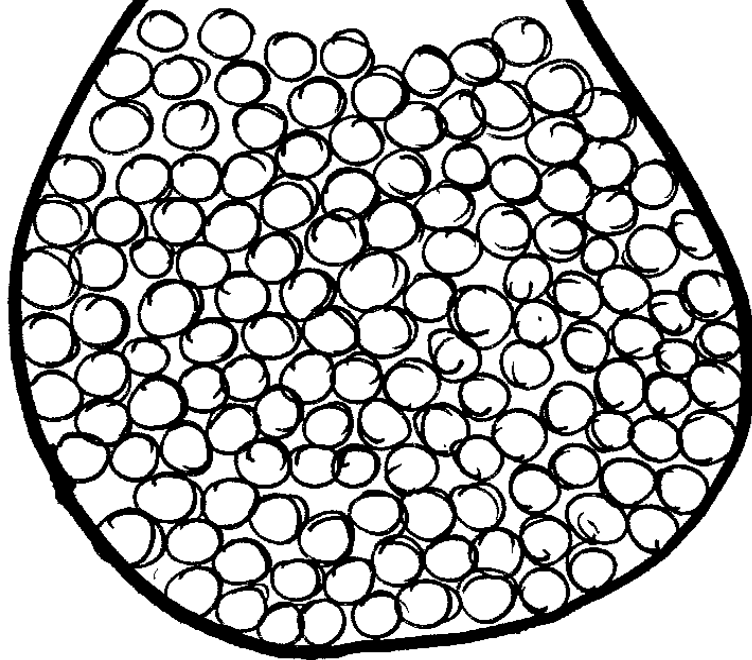
1. The scientific name for loggerheads is _____.
3. The most common species of sea turtle found in the waters off of South Carolina coast is the _____.
6. Abbreviation for "turtle excluder device" which allow turtles to escape shrimp nets so they won't drown
8. These tiny, stinging predators feed on sea turtle eggs (along with raccoons) and can destroy a nest; your mom and dad might put poison on their hills in your yard.



Can you redraw this turtle?



After a female loggerhead lays her eggs, she returns to the sea leaving the eggs to develop and hatch all on their own! Over 100 eggs are usually laid and they hatch in about 60 days. Sea turtle eggs resemble ping pong balls. How many little turtle eggs do you see in this clutch?



How many eggs?



Threats

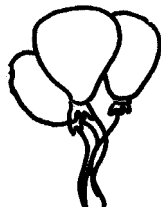
Sea turtles share many natural and human threats.
Draw lines to match the pictures to the words "human" and "natural".



trash



fire ant



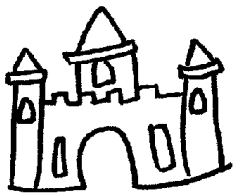
balloons



raccoon



ghost crab



sandcastle



plastic bag



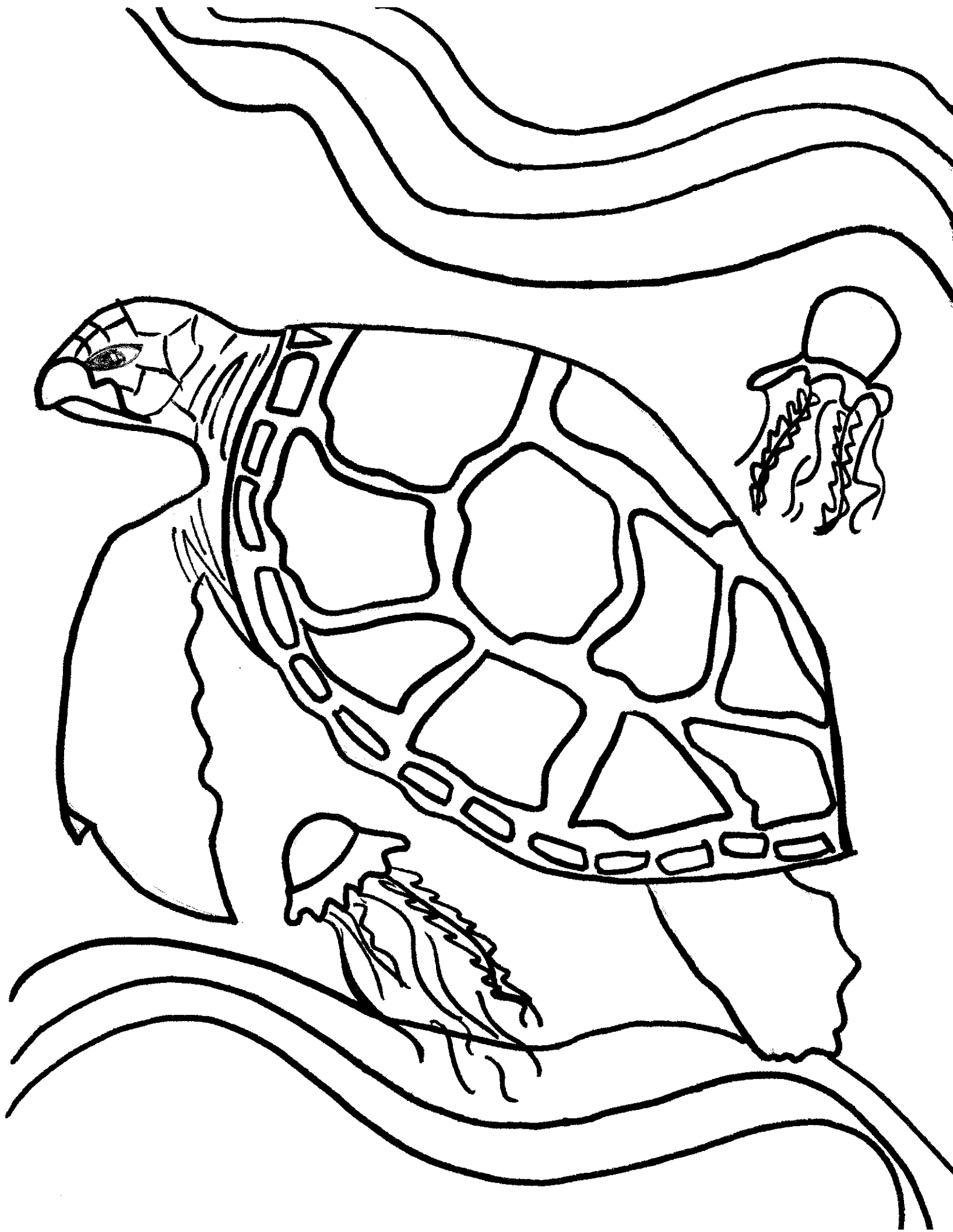
shark



lights





human

natural

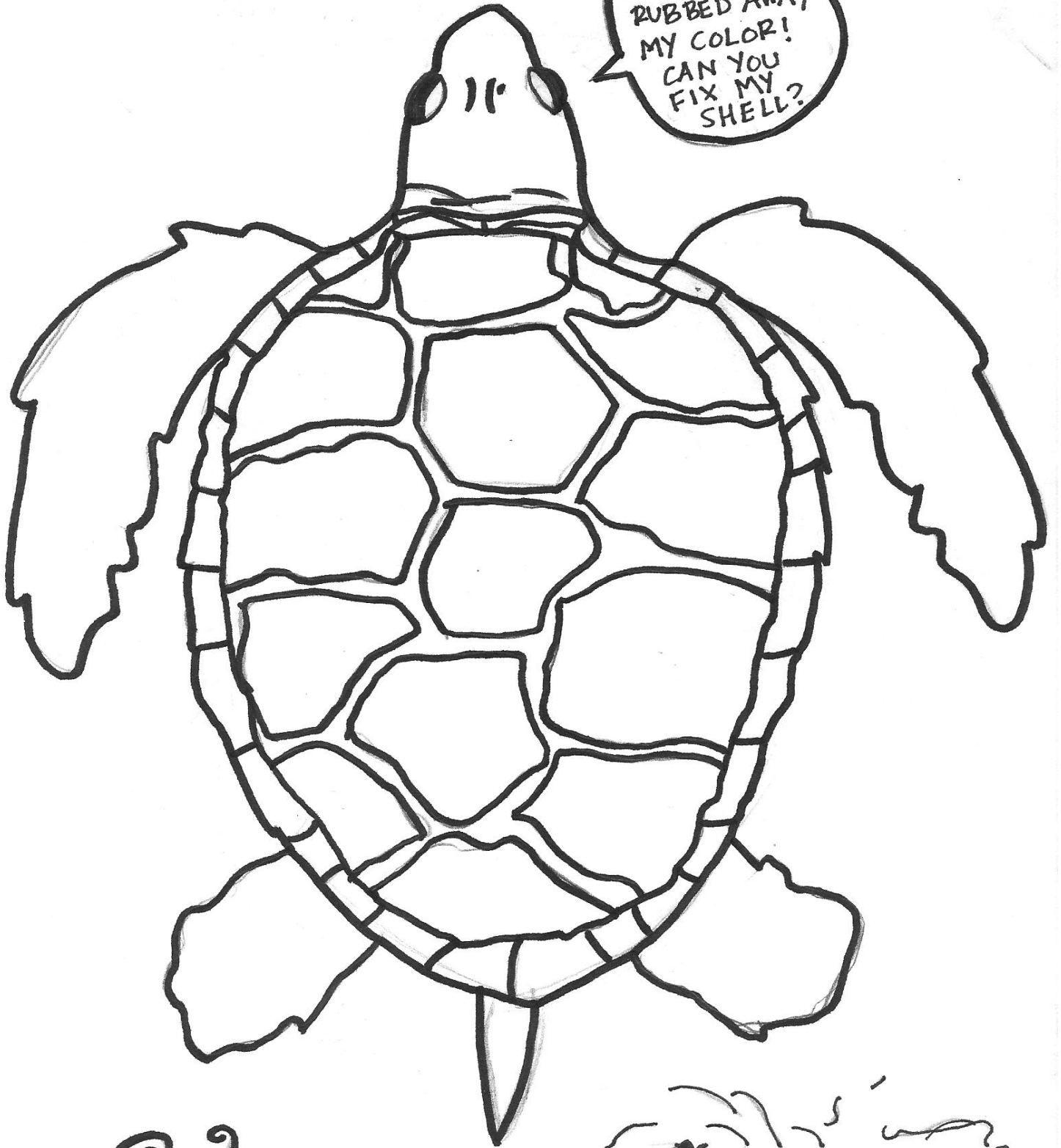


What YOU Can Do!

There are little things that you and your families can do to help sea turtles. Here are four small ways in which YOU can become a part of the sea turtle conservation effort!

-  Sea turtles often confuse trash for tasty jellyfish or other food items so remember to never leave trash on the beach.
-  When hatchlings emerge from the nest, they are in their most vulnerable stage of life and have a long and dangerous journey ahead of them. Be sure to cover up your holes and knock down your sandcastles so the babies don't get stuck in them or blocked by them!
-  Hatchlings find their way to the ocean by following the moon's reflection off the water, so if you're staying on the beach, makes sure to turn off outside lights after dark. If lights are left on, the hatchlings may get confused and crawl towards your house light instead of the ocean.
-  **SPREAD THE WORD!** Remind others of the things that they can do to make the beach and ocean a safer, friendlier place for sea turtles!

THE
SALTY OCEAN
RUBBED AWAY
MY COLOR!
CAN YOU
FIX MY
SHELL?



Color me



Glossary

Carapace: the top shell of a turtle

Caretta caretta: the scientific name for loggerhead

Conservation: the preservation of something from being damaged or harmed

Endangered: in danger of becoming extinct (no longer living)

Extinct: no longer existing or living

Hatchling: a baby sea turtle

Loggerhead: (1) One of the 7 species of sea turtle and the most common off the coast of South Carolina (2) The South Carolina state reptile

Sea Turtle Nesting Season: The season in which a sea turtle lays eggs. The loggerhead nesting season in South Carolina is May-August.

Reptile: a cold blooded, air breathing vertebrate such as a snake, turtle or dinosaur, having an external covering of scales or plates and usually lays eggs

Predator: one that destroys in order to benefit

Preserved: to keep as close to the original state as possible

Protected: to keep safe from injury or harm

Threat: a possible danger

Threatened: at risk of becoming endangered (uncertain chance of survival)

Turtle Excluder Device: a device that shrimpers attach to their nets which allows turtles to escape if they are caught



Sea Turtle Rescue



Developed by Alise Gamble for her senior thesis at Academic Magnet High School.

Special thanks to Kelly Thorvalson, Sea Turtle Rescue Program Coordinator.

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