

NORTH AMERICA

SEA TURTLES

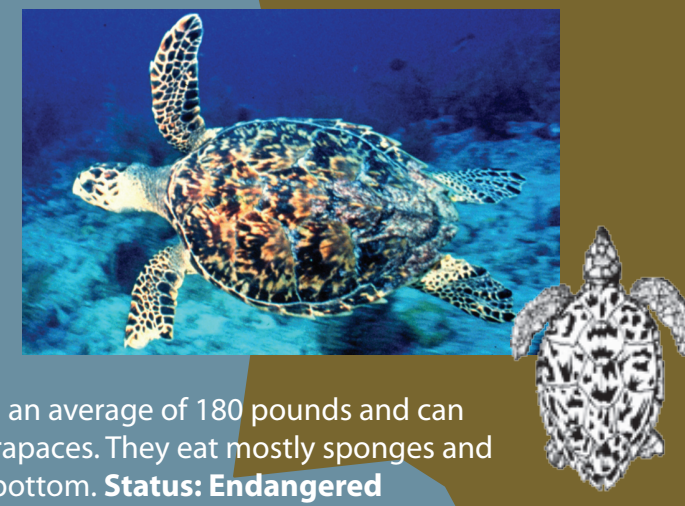
**Green Sea Turtle:**

This largest of the hard shelled sea turtles can have olive to brown carapaces (top shells) up to 3.3 feet long! Most have mottled, radiating or wavy patterns. Their rounded heads are relatively small with one pair of scales above the nostrils. As hatchlings they eat clams, sea jellies and crabs. As juveniles and adults their diets shift to sea grasses. **Status: Endangered**



**Hawksbill Sea Turtle:**

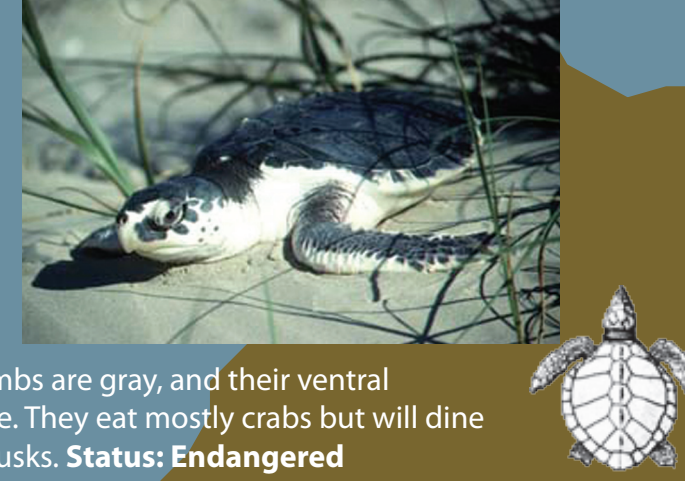
The carapaces of this turtle are shaped like a shield with overlapping shiny scutes of a "tortoise shell" pattern with radiating black, brown and amber streaks. The head is narrow with a beak-like snout. These turtles weigh an average of 180 pounds and can have nearly 3 feet long carapaces. They eat mostly sponges and creatures that live on the bottom. **Status: Endangered**



**Kemp's Ridley**

**Sea Turtle:**

This smallest sea turtle in our waters weighs only 110 pounds at the most with a maximum carapace length of only 2.6 feet. Its light gray to olive carapace is heart shaped. Their head and limbs are gray, and their ventral surface or plastron is white. They eat mostly crabs but will dine on shrimp and some mollusks. **Status: Endangered**



**Leatherback**

**Sea Turtle:**

The largest reptile in the ocean is the Leatherback that gets its name from its leathery black skin that has seven ridges running lengthwise down its carapace. The skin on various parts of the body may have white and/or pinkish blues spots. Their upper jaws are scalloped with two cusps to help them eat their preferred diet of sea jellies. **Status: Endangered**



**Loggerhead**

**Sea Turtle:**

The most abundant sea turtle in our waters has a reddish brown to yellow-orange carapace and head. Their heads are quite large in comparison to their bodies, which is what gives them their name. Their sturdy skulls encase huge muscles that help them crack open clams and crabs, their preferred diet. **Status: Threatened**



AFRICA

**Rules of Play**

1. During your turn, roll the dice and move your turtle the correct number of spaces. Read ALOUD any instructions in the box that you land in during your turn and follow these instructions.
2. Players landing on a space with an arrow must follow the path indicated by the arrow.
3. The first player that returns to the Georgia coast (either with an exact roll or a roll of an amount above what is needed) and successfully lays her eggs is declared the winner! However, continue to play until all players have nested.

GRAY'S REEF  
OCEAN SCIENCE COURSE

# Turtle Travels

A turtle's adventure around  
the North Atlantic Gyre!



1. Bright lights and noise from hotels, houses, and parking lots on the beach confuse you on your journey out to the Gulf Stream. Go back to Start.
2. Ghost crabs hanging out in the surf make a meal out of you! Go back to Start and begin your life as another hatchling.
3. A strong offshore breeze zips you towards the Gulf Stream. Swim ahead 1 space.
4. You're caught in the Charleston Gyre! Skip your next turn.
5. Looks like you're headed for the Sargasso Sea!
6. Pollutants like oils, plastic, and Styrofoam\* are caught in the sargassum weed, making you feel sick. Go back 1 space.
7. You've hit the jackpot! Here in the Sargasso Sea you find fish, crustaceans, worms, and mollusks – all of your favorite foods! Eat up, and then swim ahead 2 spaces.
8. While swimming, you are caught in a net of a shrimp boat that does not have a TED (Turtle Excluder Device). Go back 1 space while you wait to be pulled free of the net.
9. You're in luck! You've come across a large group of sea jellies – your favorite meal! Swim ahead 1 space.
10. Brrr! The Labrador Current feeds into the North Atlantic Gyre at this point, bringing colder waters that slow you down. Go back 2 spaces.
11. You're steered off-course as the North Atlantic Drift takes you towards Great Britain. Follow the arrow.
12. You accidentally eat a plastic bag that was carelessly thrown into the ocean, thinking it was a sea jellies. Skip your next turn.

13. Lucky for you! You've found a large piece of driftwood stuck in a gyre, covered with lots of good things to eat. Eat as much as your stomach can hold, and then move ahead 2 spaces.
14. A large shark nearly had you for its meal! Go back 1 space as you hide from this large predator.
15. The wind is blowing in the direction you're headed, giving you an extra boost. Keep swimming, and move up 2 spaces!
16. Ouch! A large boat strikes you. Because you are temporarily dazed, go back 1 space.
17. If you land here, catch a lift as you ride the Northeastern Trade Winds. Take the shorter path!
18. Sigh, yawn. You are tired from swimming and need to rest. To avoid harm from a shark you fold your front flippers over your carapace and bring your hind flippers close to your plastron. Drift peacefully ahead 1 space.
19. You're caught on a fisherman's line. Skip your next turn as you untangle yourself.
20. Because you didn't get as much to eat as other turtles, you did not grow as quickly and are forced to wait before nesting. Skip your next turn as you fatten up for your swim to the beach.
21. Curious tourists approach you on the way towards your nesting site. Because you're scared, you head back to the water. Go back 3 spaces.
22. You lay your eggs in an area that is below the high-tide line. Go back 4 spaces and try to nest again.

**Find more information on the travels of turtle at these web sites:**

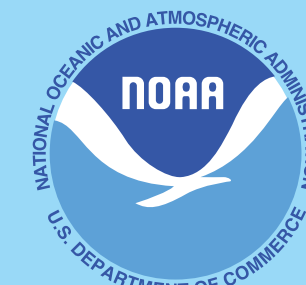
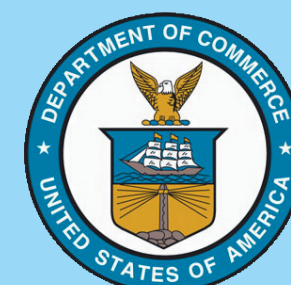
[www.turtles.org](http://www.turtles.org)  
[www.seaworld.org/infobooks/SeaTurtle/home.html](http://www.seaworld.org/infobooks/SeaTurtle/home.html)  
[www.cccturtle.org](http://www.cccturtle.org)  
[www.seaturtles.org/](http://www.seaturtles.org/)  
[www.seaturtle.org/](http://www.seaturtle.org/)  
[www.oceanconservancy.org](http://www.oceanconservancy.org)  
[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/PR3/Turtles/turtles.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR3/Turtles/turtles.html)  
<http://courses.science.fau.edu/~jwyneken/sta/>  
<http://www.gadnr.org/>

**Credits:**

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Graphic design by Anna Boyette, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography.

SOUTH AMERICA

[HTTP://GRAYSREEF.NOAA.GOV](http://GRAYSREEF.NOAA.GOV)



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