

When born, green sea turtles are only 5 cm (2 in) long. But they grow up to 1.5 metres (5 ft) in length and can weigh over 300 kg (700 lbs), making them the largest of the hard-shell sea turtles.

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Green sea turtles make their home in tropical and subtropical oceans worldwide. There are two types of green turtles, the Atlantic green turtle and the Eastern Pacific green turtle.

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Green sea turtles feed on crabs, jellyfish, and other creatures when they are young. As adults they become herbivores, mostly eating sea grasses and algae.

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Green sea turtles are able to hold their breath for hours at a time. Because they are cold-blooded, the temperature of the water affects their ability to hold their breath. In colder water they can hold their breath for longer.

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On land they move slowly, pulling themselves along with their flippers. But in general, green turtles only venture onto land to lay their eggs. Females lay eggs every 2-4 years.

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Green sea turtles mainly stay near the coastline and around islands. They live in bays and protected shores. Rarely are they seen in the open ocean.

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They lay 100-200 eggs at a time. Once the baby turtles hatch, they must crawl to the water and avoid many predators, including birds and crabs.

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Green sea turtles live very long lives. A healthy individual can expect to live 80-100 years or even more! A lot is still unknown about the life history of green sea turtles.

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Like other sea turtles, the green turtle cannot pull its head into its shell.

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Baby turtles are called hatchlings.

