

NAME: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Visit our Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital at mote.org/hospital/turtle. Use the site to answer the questions below. Then visit your Flipgrid topic to post your answers.



FL Sea Turtle Specialty License Plate funds support research, conservation and education programs that benefit sea turtles. Learn more at: helpingseaturtles.org

1 Mote’s Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital has admitted more than 650 sick and injured sea turtles since 1995. Search the patient records and choose one example to share below.

<input type="radio"/>	Species	_____
	Patient Name	_____
	Age Class	_____
	Gender	_____
<input type="radio"/>	Date Stranded	_____
	Location of Stranding	_____
	Date of Arrival	_____
	Number of Days of Care	_____
<input type="radio"/>	Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Patient. <input type="checkbox"/> Former Patient



Loggerhead
(*Caretta caretta*)



Leatherback
(*Caretta caretta*)



Kemp's Ridley
(*Caretta caretta*)

illustrations by Hayley Rutger

2 There are 7 species of sea turtle: Kemp’s Ridley, Olive Ridley, Hawksbill, Green, Loggerhead, Leatherback and Flatback. Which 5 species are found in the Gulf of Mexico and treated at Mote’s Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital?

Bonus: which 2 are not found in the Gulf of Mexico?: _____

3 **Turtles in a human world.** What threats do sea turtles face? How can we help them?

WHAT ARE SEA TURTLES?

Sea turtles are marine reptiles found in all oceans except the polar regions. They appear in the fossil record about 150 million years ago. Six of the species are in the family Cheloniidae and are cold-blooded (ectotherms). The leatherback sea turtle is the only current member of the family Dermochelyidae and are considered endotherms.

Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) – Vulnerable

Color: Shell yellow-orange to a reddish brown, underside pale yellow. Skin brown on top and yellow on the sides and bottom.

Diet: Omnivorous, feeding mainly on bottom-dwelling invertebrates.

Green (*Chelonia mydas*) – Endangered

Color: Common name refers to the usually green fat inside, not the color of its shell, which is olive to black. **Diet:** Juveniles are omnivorous, but become herbivorous as adults.

Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) – Critically Endangered

Color: Shell is olive-gray. **Diet:** Feeds near the bottom primarily of crustaceans.

Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) – Critically Endangered

Color: Amber background with light and dark streaks, with black and brown on the sides. **Diet:** Omnivorous, feeding mostly on sponges and some sea jellies.

Leatherback (*Lepidochelys kempii*) – Vulnerable

Color: Top dark grey to black with white blotches. Underside is lighter. **Diet:** Feeds almost exclusively on sea jellies.



Hans
Loggerhead



Lizzie
Green



Spencer
Kemp's Ridley



Barnacle Bill
Hawksbill



Lizzy
Leatherback

MOTE MARINE LAB STUDIES REPTILES

Mote scientist **Kristen Mazzarella** manages the sea turtle patrol. Patrol volunteers monitor miles of Florida beaches to protect sea turtle nest sites. She studies the effects that human disturbance has on the nesting turtles.



Find out more about reptiles by Skyping with us for a Virtual Field Trip: mote.org/seatrek



Kristen Mazzarella
Senior Biologist