

# MARINE TURTLES OF THE RED SEA

**Olive-Ridley Turtle**  
*Lepidochelys olivacea*



**Hawksbill Turtle**  
*Eretmochelys imbricata*



**Green Turtle**  
*Chelonia mydas*



**Loggerhead Turtle**  
*Caretta caretta*



**Leatherback Turtle**  
*Dermochelys coriacea*



SCAN FOR  
MORE INFORMATION



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Illustrations: Research and Management Techniques for the Conservation of Sea Turtles, IUCN - SSC -  
Marine Turtle Specialist Group and NOAA

# GREEN TURTLE *Chelonia mydas*

The green turtle is the second largest and the only truly herbivorous species of marine turtle. They are named after their green fat and cartilage (not their carapace) which are thought to be caused by their diet of plants and algae. They may migrate huge distances between feeding and hatching grounds.



## Diet: Herbivorous

Plants (such as seagrasses) & algae



## Range:

Tropical & subtropical seas



## Weight:

Up to 185 kg



## Size:

Adult: up to 1.4 m  
Juvenile: up to 0.8 m

## Head:

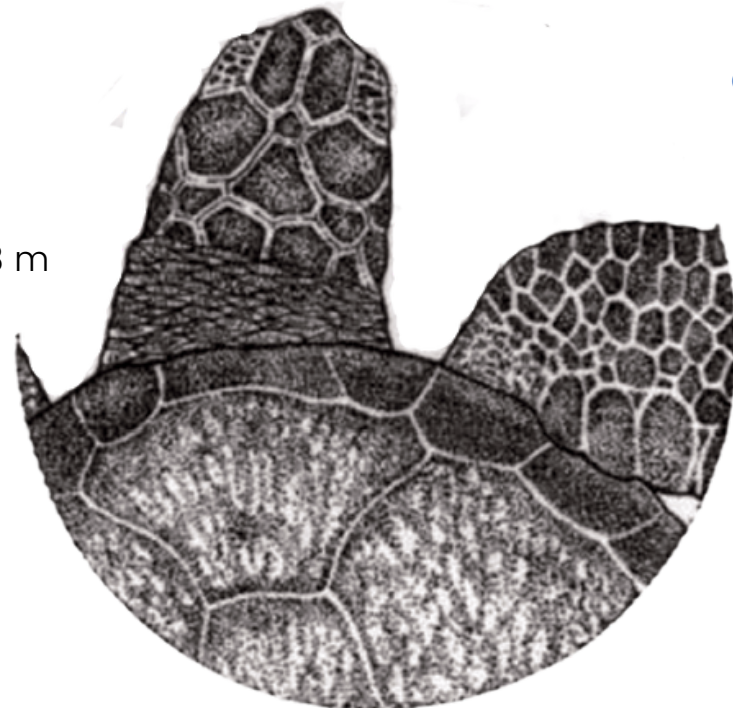
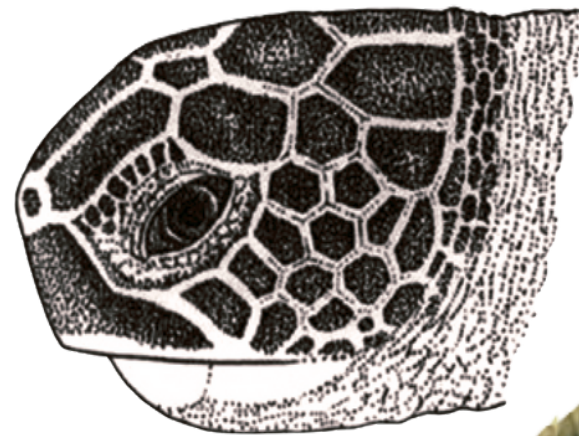
Small, blunt & roundish

## Carapace:

Smooth & ovular with 4 lateral scutes

## Color:

Dark/olive green/grey



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# HAWKSBILL TURTLE *Eretmochelys imbricata*

Hawksbill turtles are named after their characteristic narrow and pointed beak (which resembles a hawk's), and are associated particularly with coral reefs. They are the second smallest marine turtle found in the Red Sea, and use their specialised beaks to extract soft-bodied prey items from the reef.



## Diet: Omnivorous

Soft corals, sponges & algae



## Range:

Tropical & subtropical seas



## Weight:

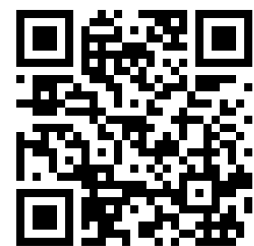
Up to 68 kg



## Size:

Adult: up to 1.1 m

Juvenile: up to 0.7 m



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## Head:

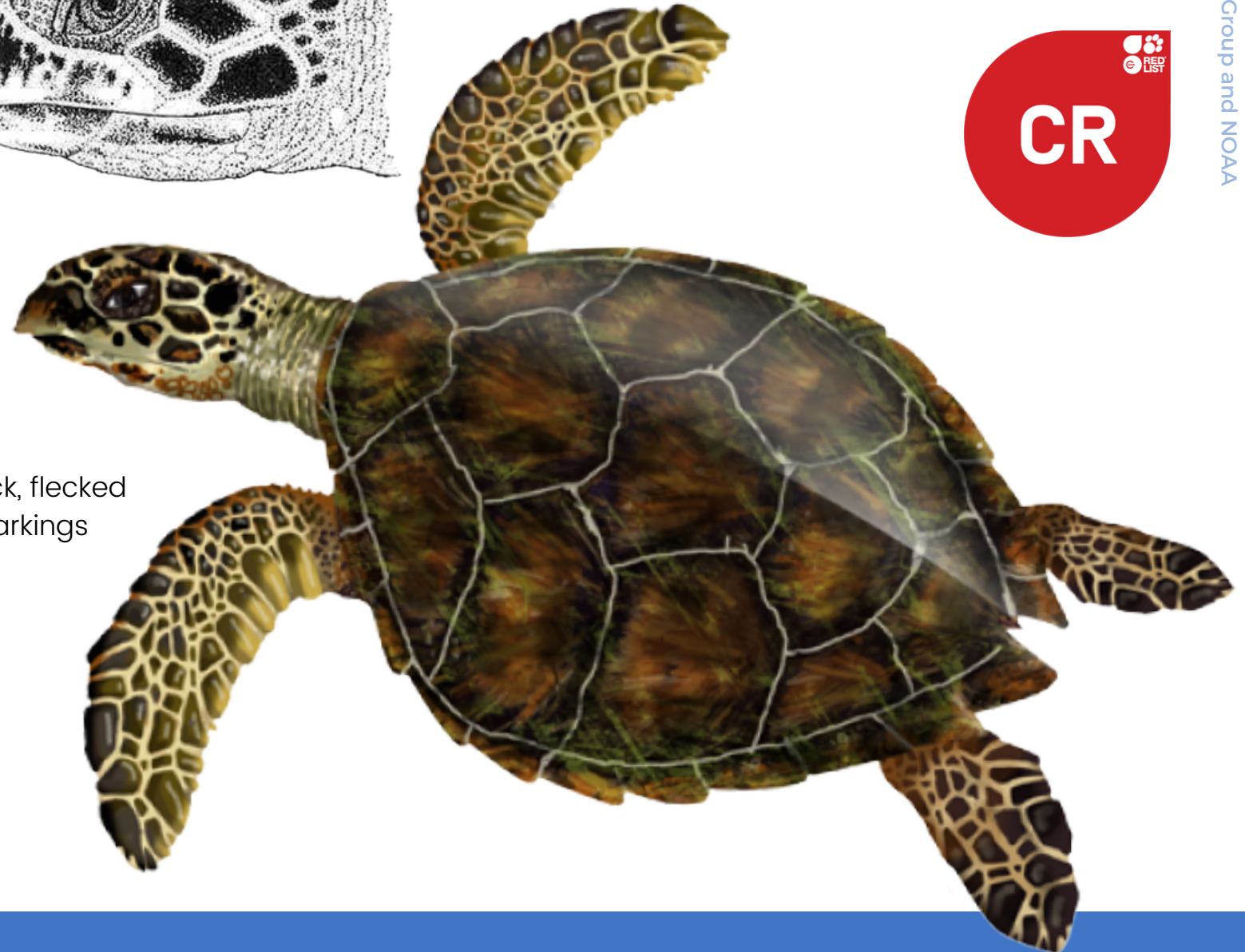
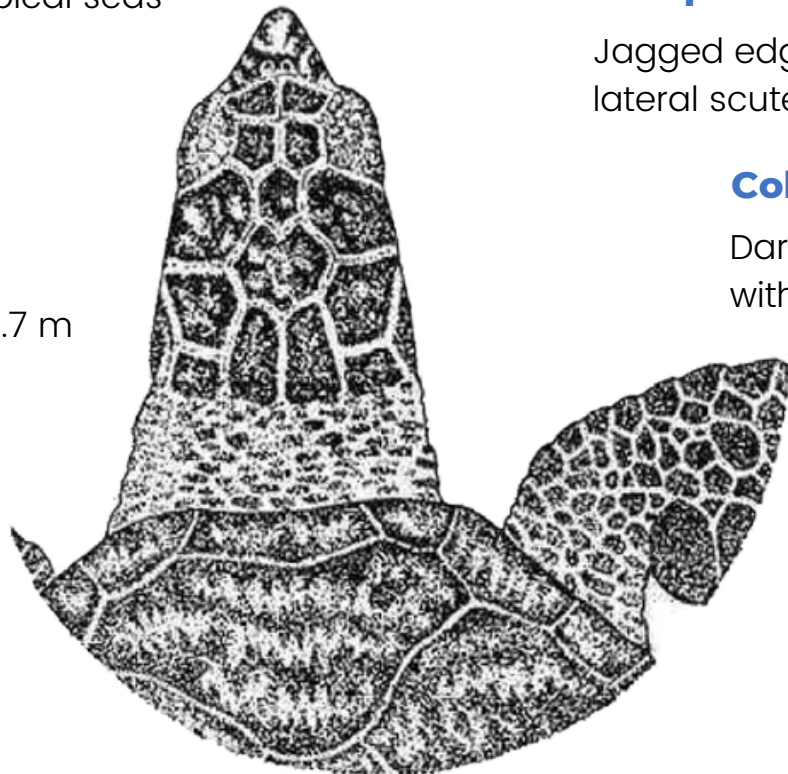
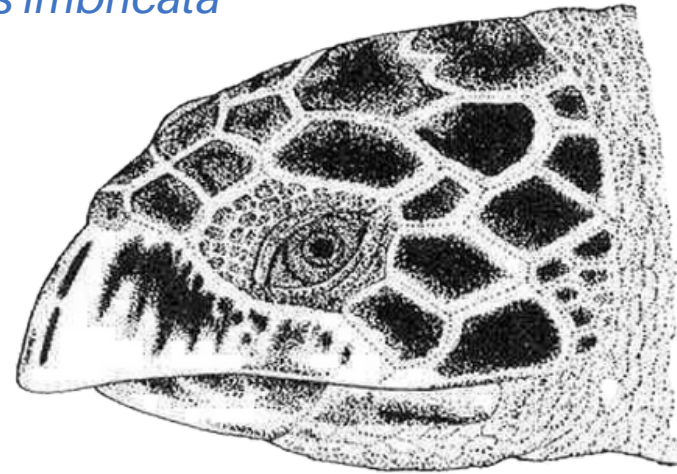
Long & pointed with a sharp beak

## Carapace:

Jagged edges with 4 lateral scutes

## Color:

Dark brown/black, flecked with light/red markings



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# LOGGERHEAD TURTLE *Caretta caretta*

Sporting a reddish-brown colouration with a yellowish underside, loggerhead turtles are named for their large heads that support powerful jaw muscles that facilitate in crushing hard-shelled prey like sea urchins. They tend to venture into colder waters more than other hard-shelled turtle species.



## Diet: Carnivorous

Molluscs, urchins & crustaceans



## Range:

Tropical to temperate seas



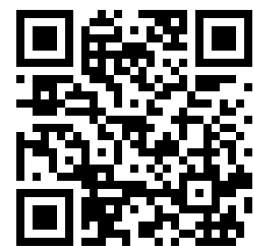
## Weight:

Up to 110 kg



## Size:

Adult: up to 1.2 m  
Juvenile: up to 0.6 m



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## Head:

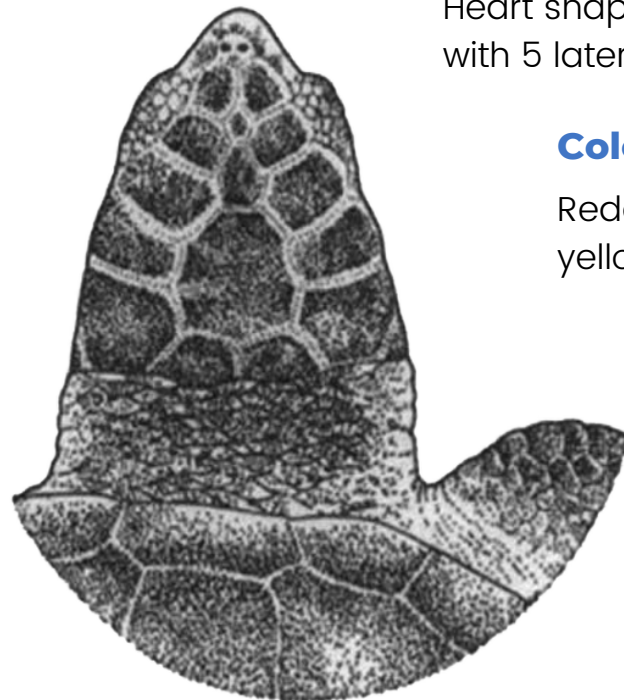
Large & rounded  
with a strong jaw

## Carapace:

Heart shaped & rough  
with 5 lateral scutes

## Color:

Reddish/brown with a  
yellowish/light underside



# OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE *Lepidochelys olivacea*

The olive ridley turtle is the second smallest marine turtle species in the world and the smallest occurring in the Red Sea. They are the most globally abundant of all marine turtles, however their nesting sites are limited to very few places around the world and thus are highly vulnerable to disturbance.



## Diet: Omnivorous

Molluscs, crustaceans & algae



## Range:

Tropical & subtropical seas



## Weight:

Up to 50 kg



## Size:

Adult: up to 0.8 m  
Juvenile: up to 0.6 m



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## Head:

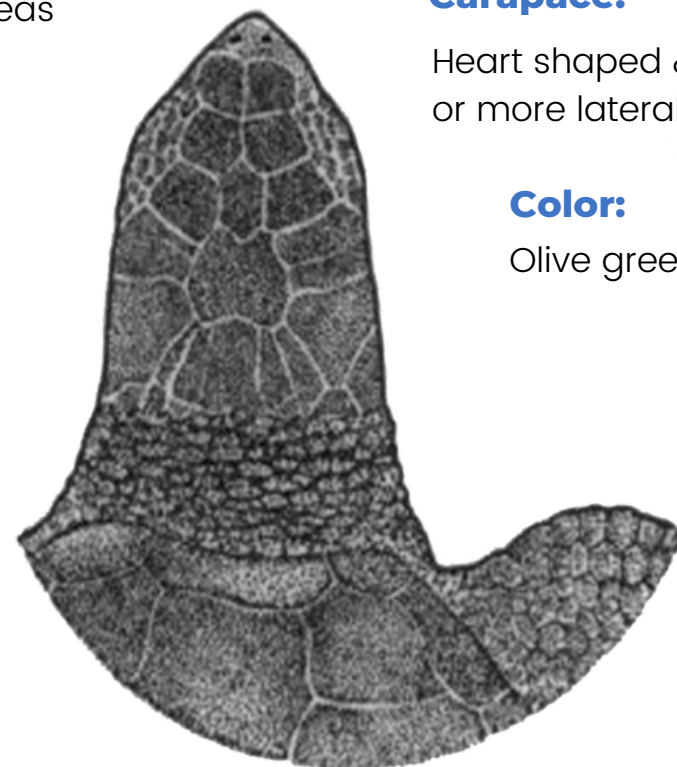
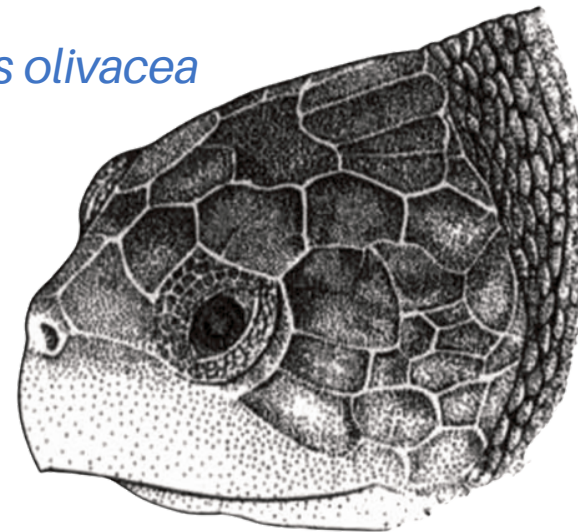
Small & narrow

## Carapace:

Heart shaped & smooth with 6 or more lateral scutes

## Color:

Olive green/brown



# LEATHERBACK TURTLE *Dermochelys coriacea*

The leatherback turtle is the largest of all marine turtles and the only member of the 'soft-shelled' family Dermochelyidae. Their black leather-like carapace is formed of 5-7 ridges and supported by bony plates under a thin layer of skin - unlike all other marine turtles that instead have keratinous scutes.



## Diet: Omnivorous

Jellyfish & sometimes algae



## Range:

Tropical to temperate seas



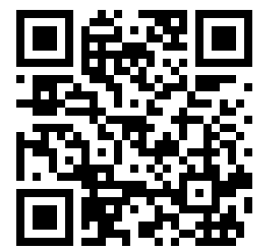
## Weight:

Up to 800 kg



## Size:

Adult: up to 3 m  
Juvenile: up to 1.2 m



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## Head:

Large & round with a  
notched beak

## Carapace:

Leather-like with 5 to  
7 bony ridges

## Color:

Black/dark grey  
with white speckles

