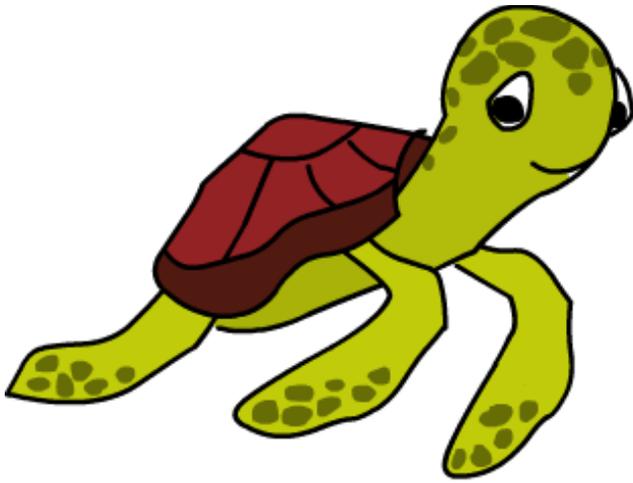


Loggerhead Sea Turtle Profile



Loggerhead Sea Turtle Family Tree

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Subphylum: Vertebrata
Class: Reptilia
Order: Testudines
Family: Cheloniidae
Genus: Caretta
Species: Caretta caretta

Hi! I'm Simon. I'm a Loggerhead turtle. Like all Loggerheads I am a marine reptile. Our sea turtle family began in the age of the Dinosaurs, and although Dinosaurs are now extinct, 7 kinds of marine turtles still exist! However, most of them are endangered.

We can be found in almost all the seas in the world. We live in the shallow warm waters where we can find food. As carnivores, we like to eat other small animals that are found in the coral reefs.

The adults travel large distances – sometimes thousands of miles across the world! But our moms usually make the long trip back to the beach on which they were born to lay their own eggs. That's how I was hatched! Mom left the ocean at night and crept on to the quiet beach. There she used her hind legs to dig a hole in the ground. Inside this 'nest' she lay her eggs, including me! There were more than 100 eggs in one nest! Then she covered the hole up with sand, and made her way back to the water.

We stayed in the nest, growing slowly inside our eggs. Luckily no dogs, foxes or humans dug up the eggs for food. About 2 months later we hatched! My brothers, sisters and I peeked through the sand and made our way to the ocean, trying to avoid dangerous marine birds and crabs that were looking for food. Once we reached the water, we knew we were going to stay there for the rest of our lives! Only the females would come back out to lay their own eggs as adults.