

# Turtles: come out of your shell!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Turtles live on **every continent** except Antarctica

Turtles are part of a group called **Testudines**, which includes tortoises, terrapins and turtles. There are around

**300** known species of Testudines worldwide



The **Hawksbill turtle** and **Kemp's Ridley turtle** are listed as '**critically endangered**' on the IUCN Red List



## Climate change

is affecting turtles. An increase of 1°C may seriously reduce the number of male hatchlings. Already females outnumber the males by more than 2:1



Cool beaches produce mainly **male** hatchlings whereas **warmer** conditions produce mainly **females**



Turtles have **adapted** to an aquatic life with long feet that form flippers and a streamlined body shape

River turtles are **omnivores** – they eat both meat and plants



The earliest known turtle-like animals date back **220 million years** and have been around longer than mammals, birds, crocodiles, snakes and lizards



## DID YOU KNOW?

A group of turtles is called a **bale**

Flatback turtles lay the fewest eggs: **50 per clutch**  
Hawksbills lay the most: **up to 200 per clutch** but these are often vulnerable to predators

Some sea turtles can live for over **100 years**



The number of **sea turtles** that survive to adulthood from every 1000 eggs

**1**

Most turtles' shells are made up of around **60 bones** which are covered with hard plates, known as scutes, that make the shell stronger



## DID YOU KNOW?

The **Leatherback turtle** is the **largest & fastest** turtle. They grow to 2m in length and weigh up to **900kg**. They have been seen swimming at **22mph**



Turtles are especially **vulnerable to predators** when they are young due to their soft shells



**The Deep** is home to **2** Loggerhead sea turtles which were **rescued** from the wild after being caught on fisherman's long lines in the **Mediterranean**. The Deep has also been involved in **rehabilitating** ill turtles in the **USA**. Read more here: [www.thedeep.co.uk/conservation](http://www.thedeep.co.uk/conservation)

