

# Saving Sea Turtles

**F**or over 100 million years, sea turtles have graced our oceans. But today, these creatures are at risk of extinction. Five of the seven species are endangered or critically endangered.

Many hazards to sea turtles come from human activity, such as construction along beaches, hunting of turtles and their eggs, pollution, and accidental capture in fishing nets and gear. Another great danger is climate change. Nesting beaches and feeding grounds are being damaged. Also, fewer males are

born as beaches grow warmer, since the egg's temperature determines the turtle's gender.

People around the world are working to help by protecting beach habitats and reducing bright lights, which disturb sea turtles. In Costa Rica, youth gather eggs and take them to safe nesting spots. After the turtles hatch, they're released near the ocean.

Even if you live far from the sea, anything you do to conserve energy and slow climate change can help the sea turtles thrive.

**This Costa Rican community has worked together to protect leatherback turtle eggs. Now they're releasing the hatchlings. Find 20 sea turtles in the scene.**



LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLES MIGRATE *THOUSANDS* OF MILES. ONE WAS TRACKED ABOUT 12,800 MILES (20,600 KM)!

WE'RE THE WORLD'S *LARGEST* SEA TURTLES. THE BIGGEST ONE OF US WEIGHED IN AT ABOUT 2,020 POUNDS (916 KG)!