



SEA TURTLES OF OMAN

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BOOKLET

Commissioned by:



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Hi! I am Amira.



Hi, I am Ahmed! And we both live on Masirah! Can you tell us a little about yourself?



My name is _____.

I live in _____.

I go to a school called _____.

I am _____ years old.

Oh, woah, what are these
animal tracks?

Maybe if we follow them,
we will find ...



..look, sea turtles!

The largest species of sea turtles is the leatherback. It feeds in the waters around Oman but does not nest here.



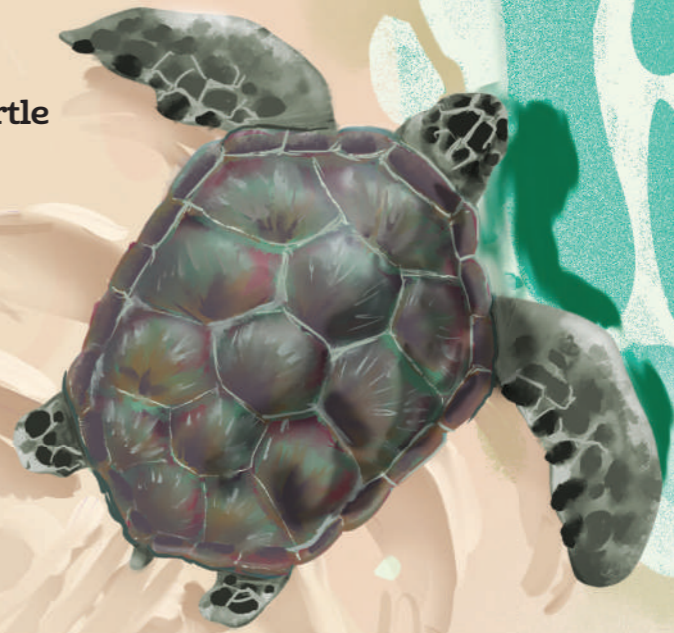
Hawksbill Turtle
75 to 90 cm



Loggerhead Turtle
80 to 110 cm



Olive Ridley Turtle
60 to 70 cm



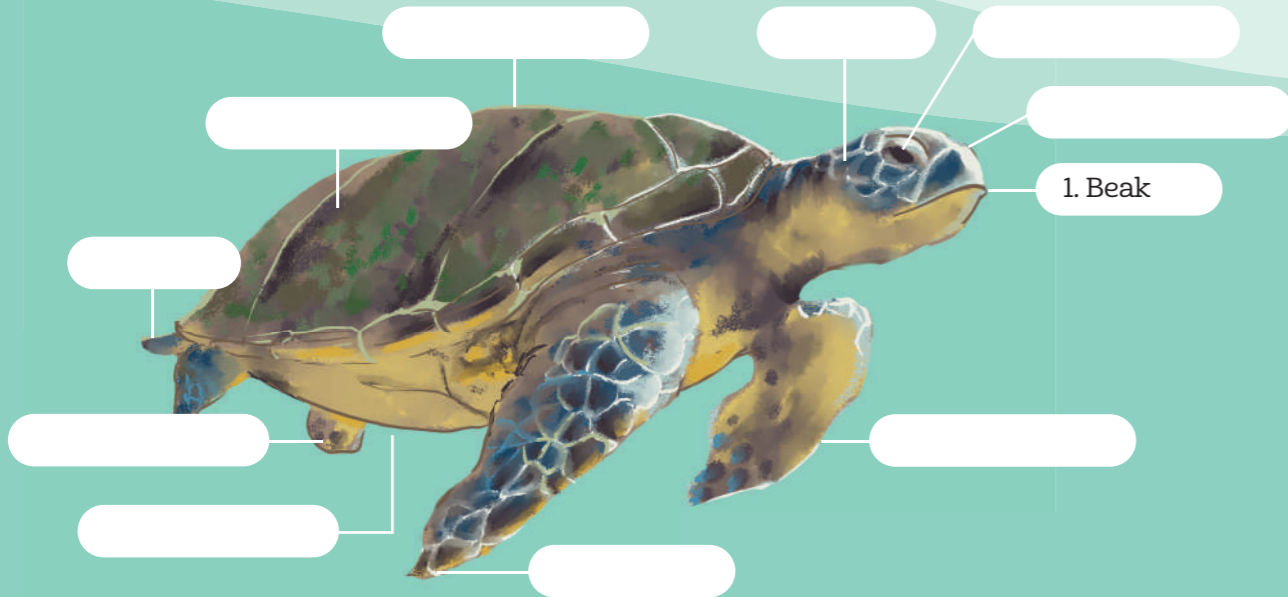
Green Turtle
90 to 110 cm

* This is only for representative purposes. You will not find all four sea turtle species nesting on the same beach at the same time in Oman.

ACTIVITY 01

Sea turtles all look so similar! Let's identify their body parts using the given drawing and labels. One has already been done for us.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Beak | 8. Nostrils |
| 2. Carapace (hard shell on the back) | 9. Plastron (hard shell on the underside) |
| 3. Claw | 10. Scutes (plates that make up the hard shell on the back) |
| 4. Ear | 11. Tail |
| 5. Eye | |
| 6. Front flipper | |
| 7. Back flipper | |



Sea turtles have ears that are much smaller than ours. We can't see them because they are covered by a protective layer of skin. Their ears work by allowing them to hear vibrations in the water.

ACTIVITY 02

While all sea turtles have a beak, every species has one that is slightly different from the other. Their beaks have adapted to help them eat a particular type of food. Can you match the description of the beak to the turtle's diet?



A

The beak of a green turtle is a saw-like, serrated beak that is ideal for cutting and scraping



B

A loggerhead has a wide head with a strong jaw that enables it to crush hard shelled prey



C

The beak of the olive ridley turtle is small and pointed, allowing it to have a mixed diet



D

A hawksbill has a sharp and narrow beak that allows it to reach crevices on a reef



1

Tears off and eats chunks of sponges growing on the reef



2

Feeds on a variety of prey including crabs, clams and sea snails



3

Feeds on grasses, seaweed, and algae growing on rocks



4

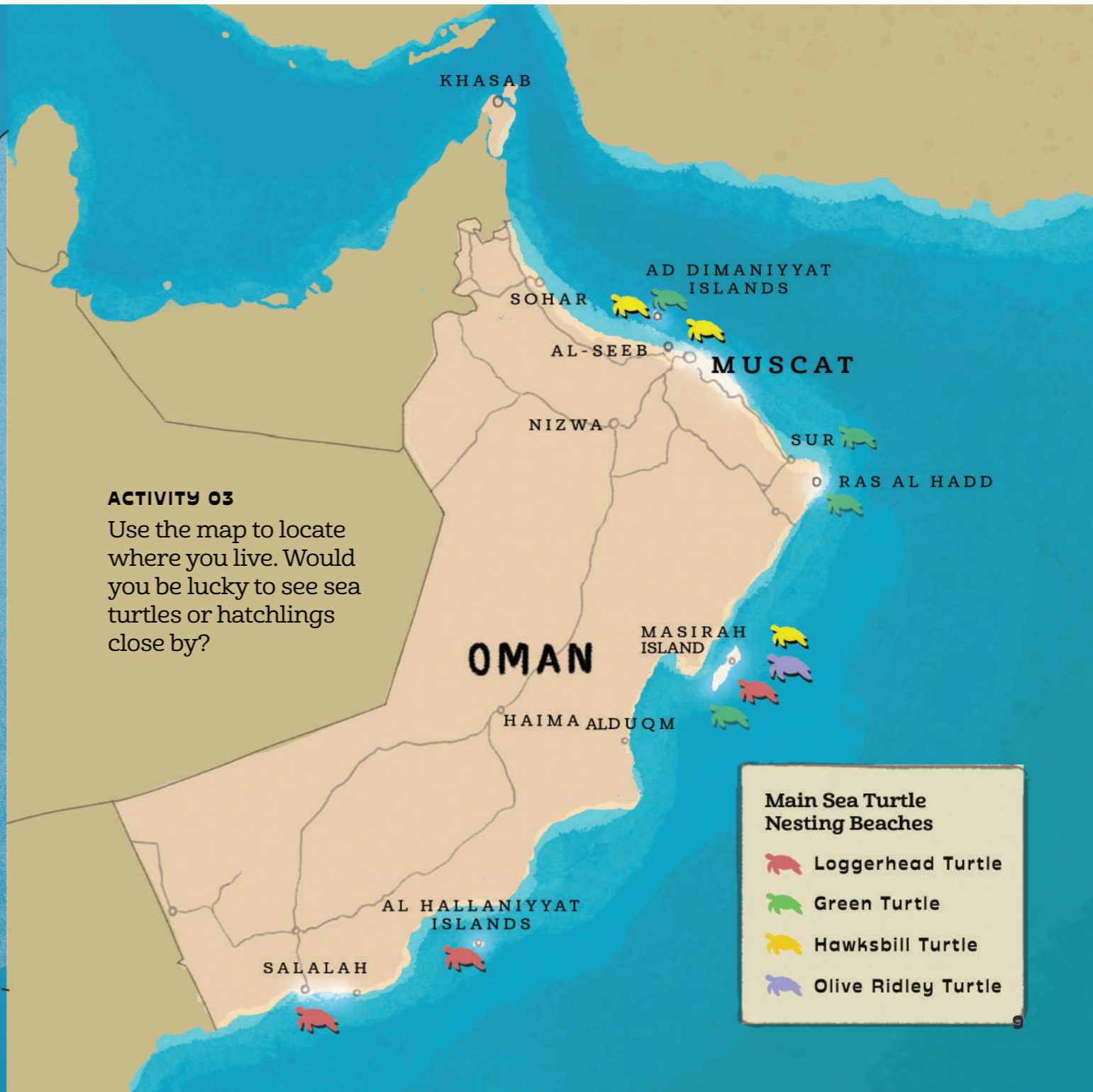
Eats a variety of animals and plants including crabs, shrimp, lobsters, urchins, jellies, algae, and fish

There are a total of seven species of sea turtles that are found all over the world! Well, almost all over because there are none to be found in Antarctica. Four of these seven species nest on Masirah and in other parts of Oman. Let's take a closer look.



*This map is not to scale and is not a formal reference for international borders.

ACTIVITY 03
Use the map to locate where you live. Would you be lucky to see sea turtles or hatchlings close by?

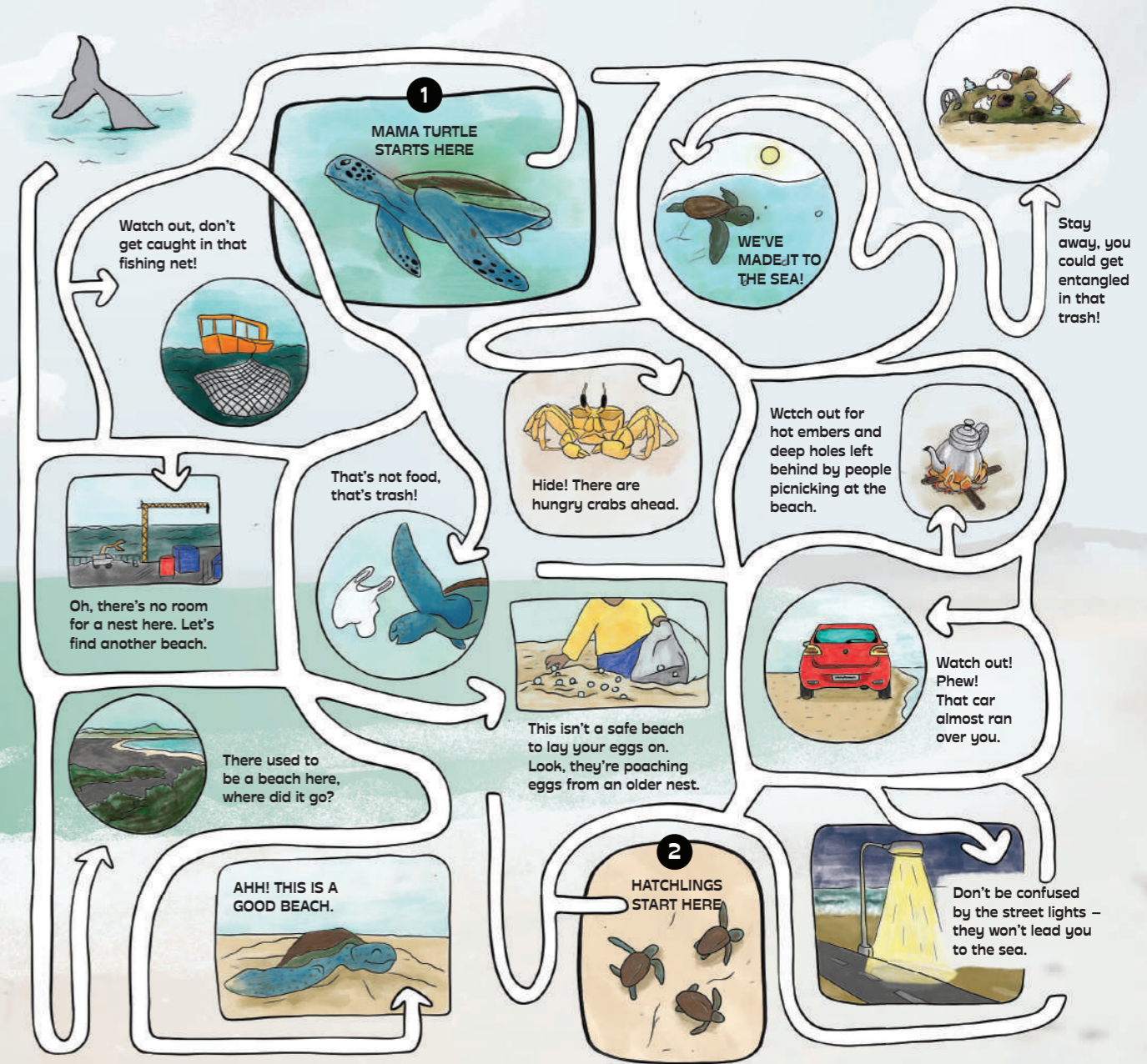


Unfortunately, most sea turtles are threatened globally. There are plenty of reasons for their declining numbers, and sea turtles in Oman face the same threats.

ACTIVITY 04

This mama turtle and these hatchlings need to make a safe passage to their destinations. (1) The mama must get to the beach to lay her eggs, and (2) the hatchlings need to get to the sea. Help them find their way while avoiding all the threats they face!

Sea turtles have been on earth since the time of the dinosaurs. Six of the seven species of sea turtles are now listed under IUCN's (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species as globally threatened.



ACTIVITY 05

Sea turtles face many threats but, the efforts being undertaken to protect them are just as many. Find the words related to threats and conservation efforts in Oman in the word search activity below. The words could be backwards, forwards, downwards or diagonal.

F R E S E A R C H T O D L
I S F I F R Y D N C G U I
S A W A R E N E S S N N G
H E J A W W M V T C I O H
E R B P L N R E R O H I T
R O O P R B E L E M C T S
M S L E U S S O T M A A H
E I V Q P I C P T U O C C
N O A H O Q U M I N P U T
G N N L Z E E E L I J D A
P M F U R L E N T T A E C
G H O S T N E T S Y X D Y
G N I R O T I N O M Q X B

WORDS

AWARENESS
BYCATCH
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION
EROSION
FISHERMEN
GHOSTNETS

GOVERNMENT
LAWS
LIGHTS
LITTER

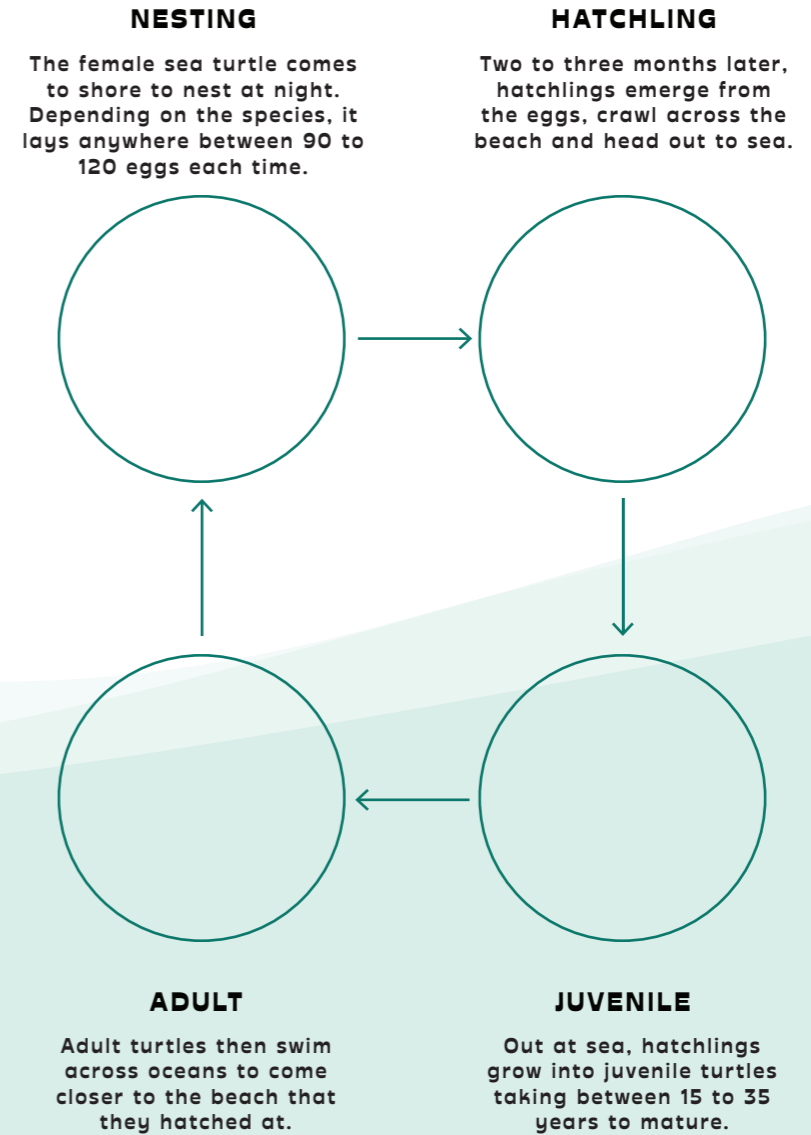
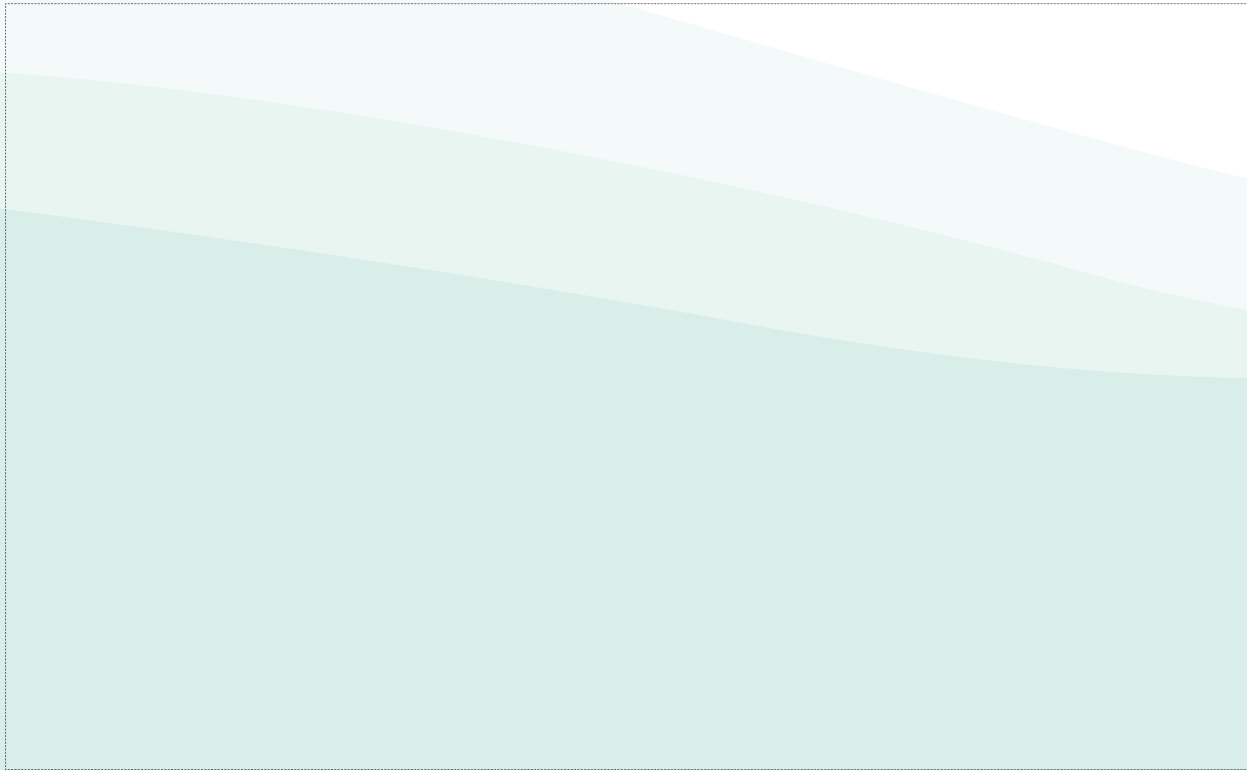
MONITORING
POACHING
RESCUE
RESEARCH

It is estimated that only one in 1,000 sea turtles survive to adulthood. Knowing this, scientists and ecologists are trying to increase their chances of survival. We must also help whenever we can! As we see the little hatchlings leave our shores, let's hope that we see them come back to Oman.



ACTIVITY 06

But do you know where these hatchlings go? Hatchlings that make it out to shore and to adulthood, live a long life! They come back decades later to nest at the same beach where they hatched. Use the stickers and the information provided to complete the hatchling's life cycle.





There are several things that you can do to make sure you do not disturb sea turtles at the beach, whether adults or hatchlings. Here are some of them:



ACTIVITY 07

How to draw a sea turtle:

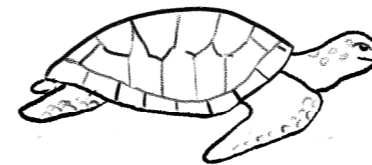
STEP 01



STEP 02



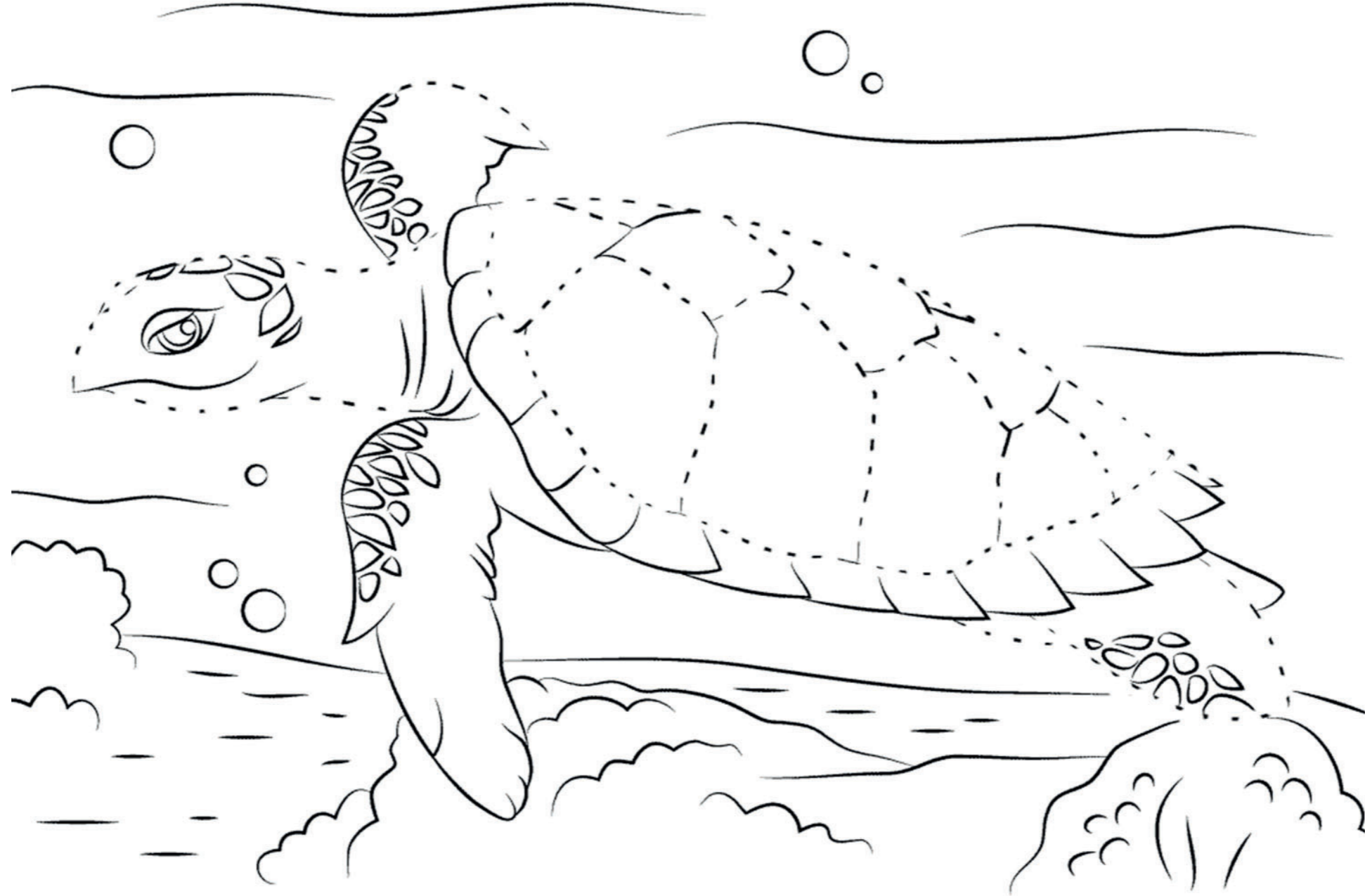
STEP 03



Unlike their freshwater relatives, the head and flippers of sea turtles are fixed outside the shell and cannot be pulled into it.

ACTIVITY 08

Colour the sea turtle:



النشاط 08

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