

TURTLE COLORING BOOK



EARTHDAY.ORG X PBS



WHAT ARE ENDANGERED SPECIES?

An endangered species is a kind of plant or animal in danger of going extinct. When a species goes extinct, it means there are no more animals or plants of that kind left on the planet. For example, there are no more dinosaurs on our Earth because they went extinct a long time ago. But extinction can still happen to plants and animals around today.

Many kinds of turtles are endangered, which means there are so few of them they could go extinct in the future. There are 360 turtle and tortoise species scientists have discovered. But, 127 of them are endangered.

WHY ARE TURTLES ENDANGERED?

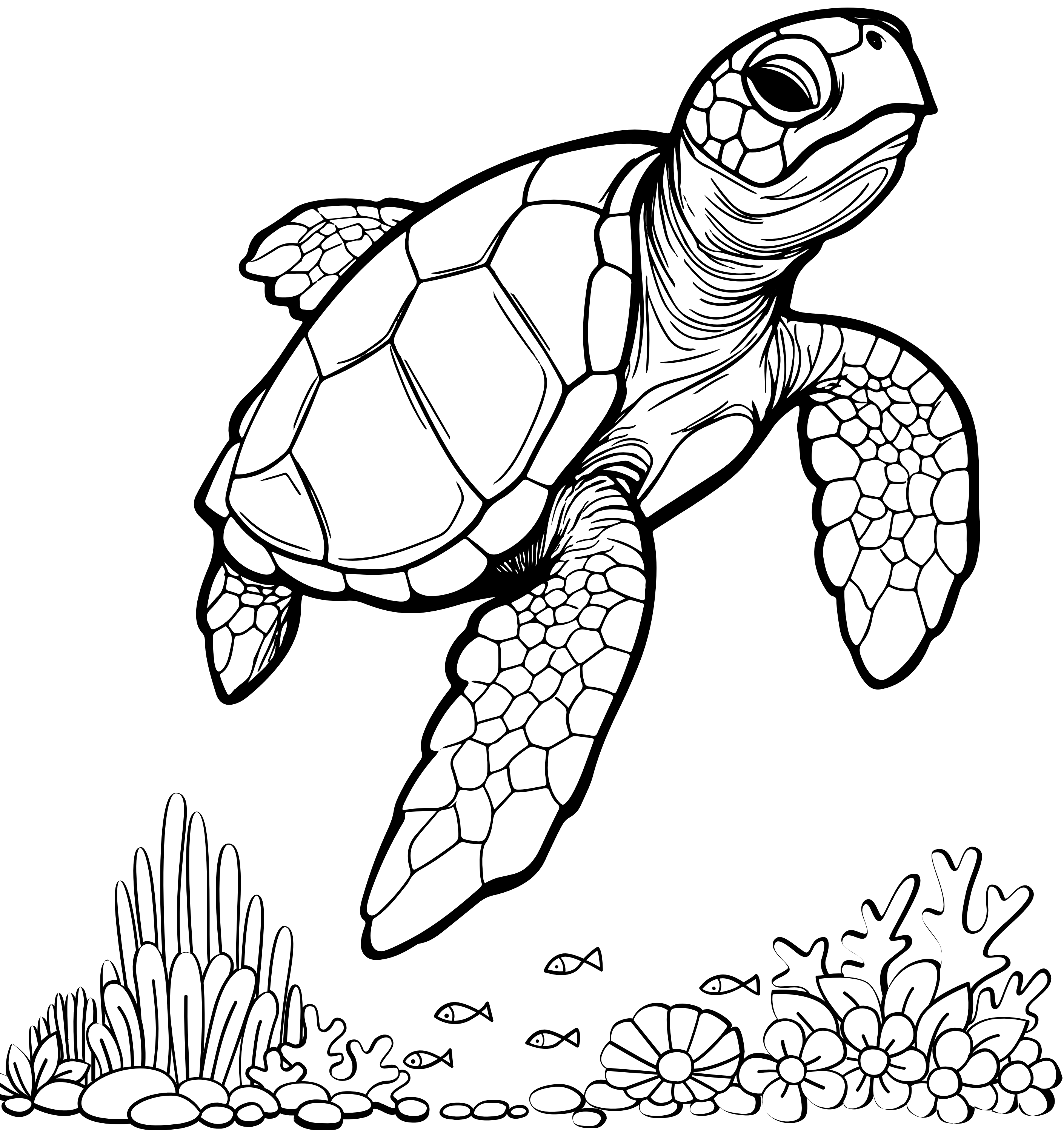
Turtles are in danger because their habitats are being destroyed. When people use the land for farming or building houses, the places turtles use to find food and shelter can disappear.

Some people want to keep turtles as pets. There are many places where you can find turtles born in captivity- meaning humans raised them as their pets. But sometimes turtles are taken from the wild and sold to people around the world. This is bad for the turtles because wild animals are not meant to live as pets. It is also bad for the species because fewer turtles are left in the wild. The total population, or number of turtles in an area, will decrease over time until there are none left.

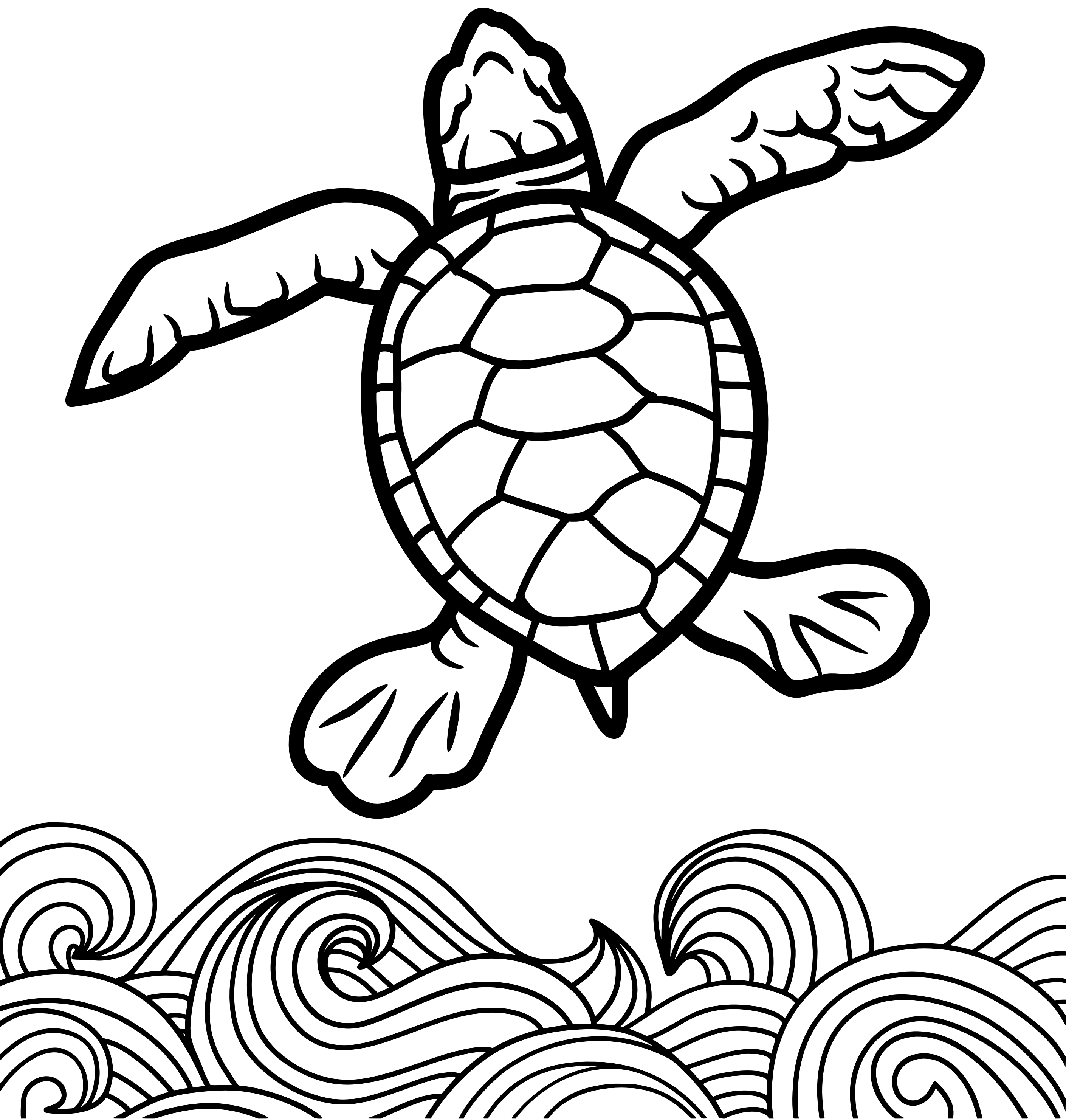
Most turtles are aquatic or semi-aquatic, which means they spend a lot of their time in or around water. The water has to be safe enough to swim and drink. But humans can pollute the water with chemicals from factories, farms, and even cars. Pollution can make the water dirty and dangerous for the turtles.

Turtles can also be harmed by plastic pollution. When you throw away or even recycle items like plastic bags, the trash can sometimes find its way into the ocean. Sea turtles mistake the trash for food and eat it, which can make them very sick.

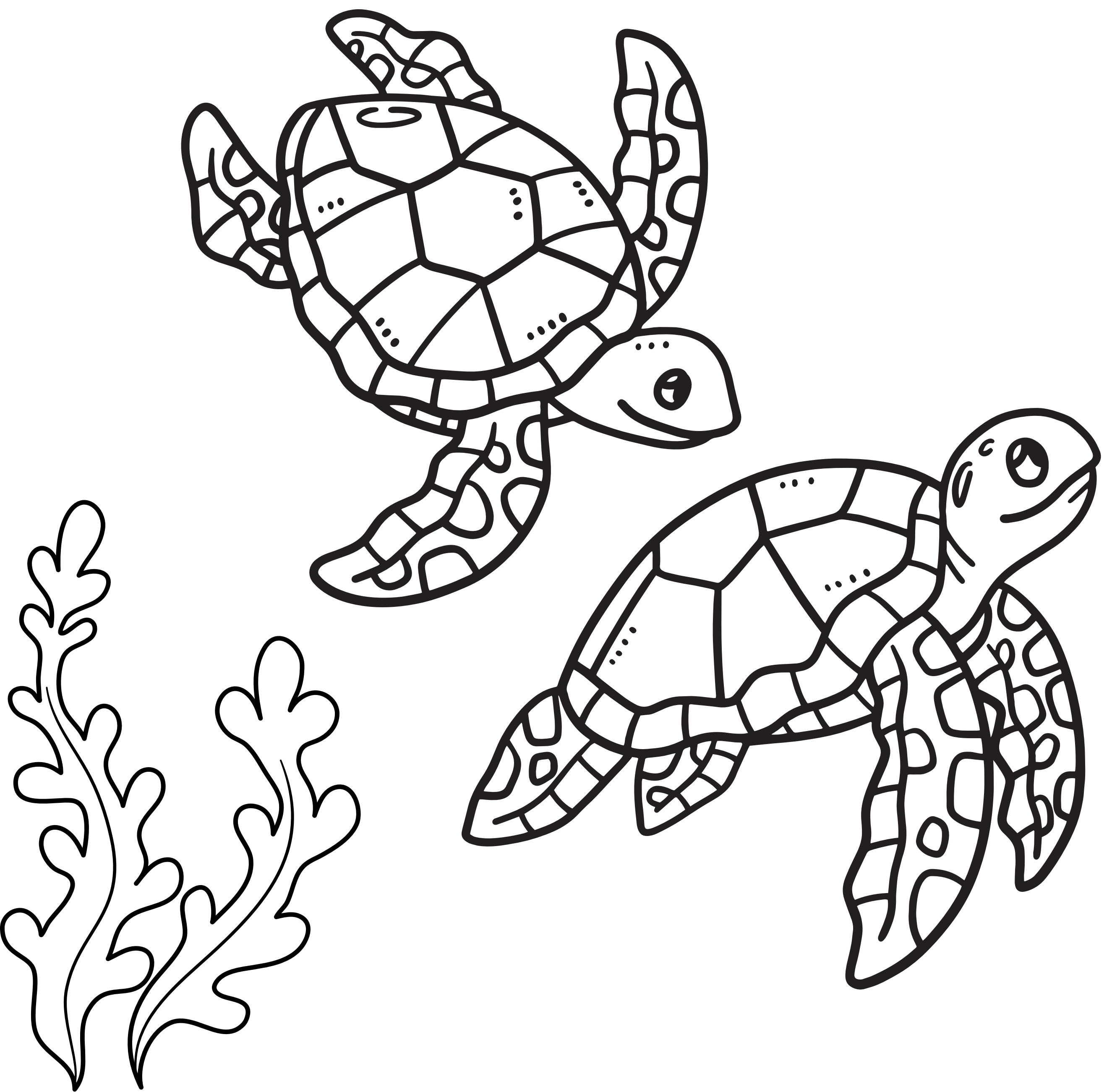
Unlike other turtle species, sea turtles cannot pull their heads or flippers into their shells. This makes them more vulnerable to predators.



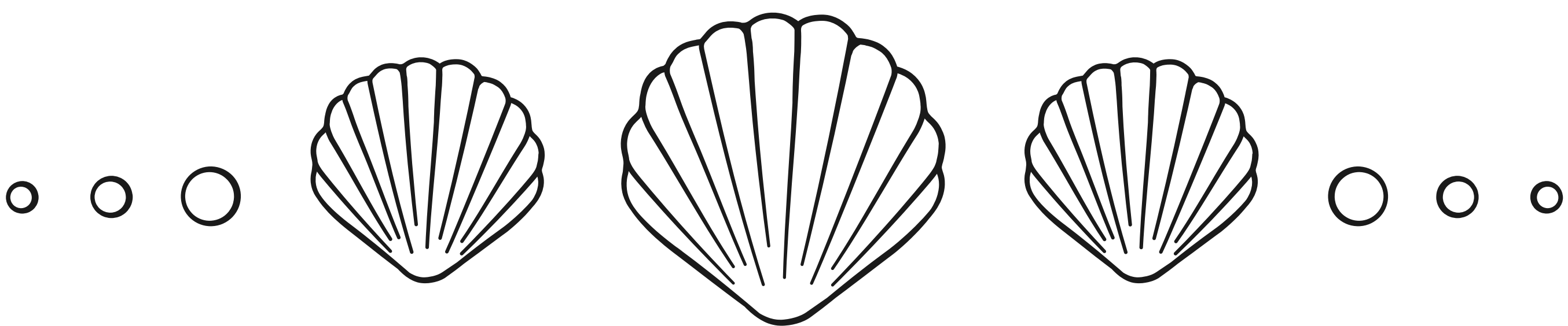
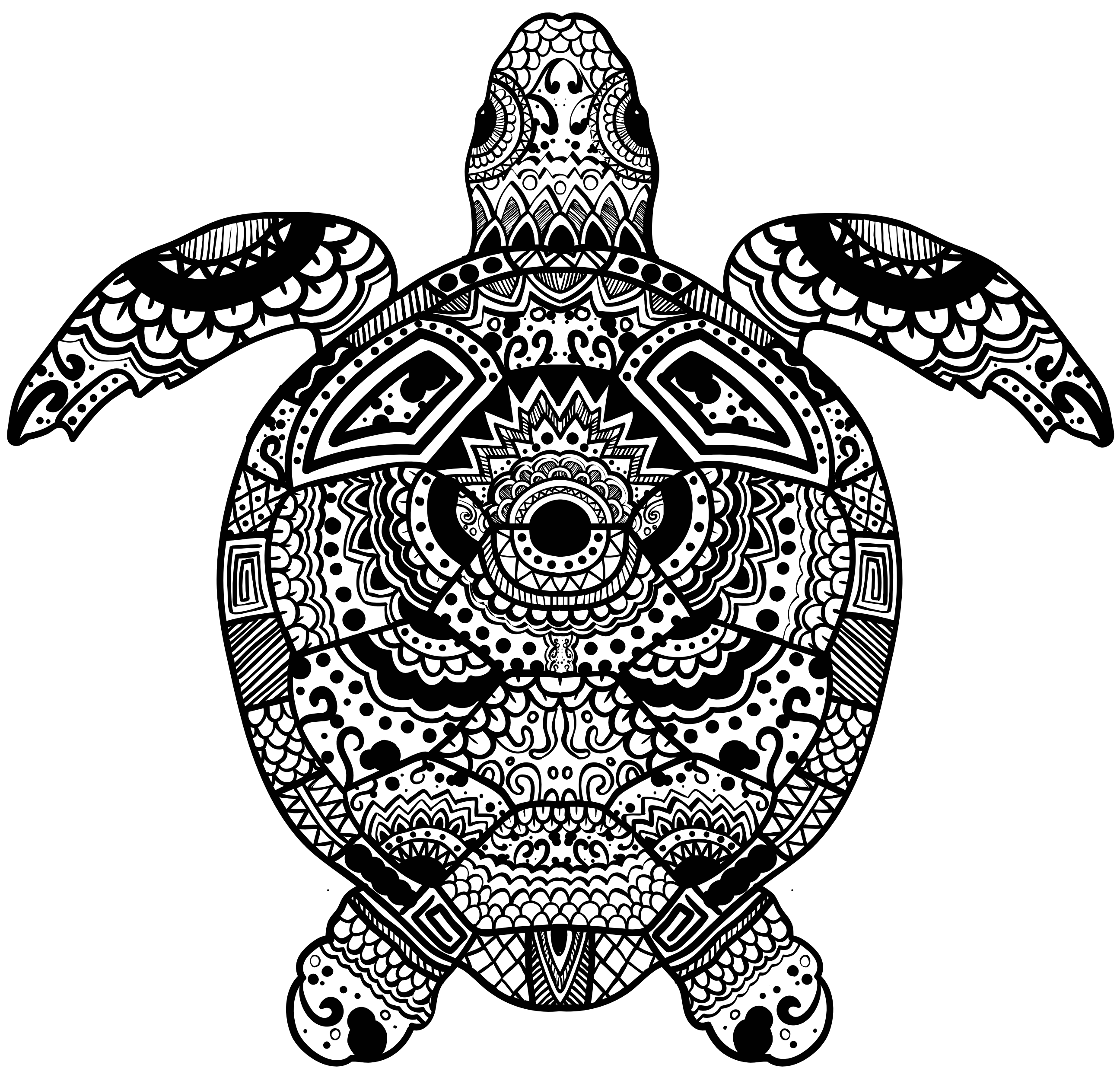
Mother turtles lay their many eggs on land. When they hatch from their eggs, baby turtles have to travel from the sandy beach to the ocean and escape predators like crabs and birds.



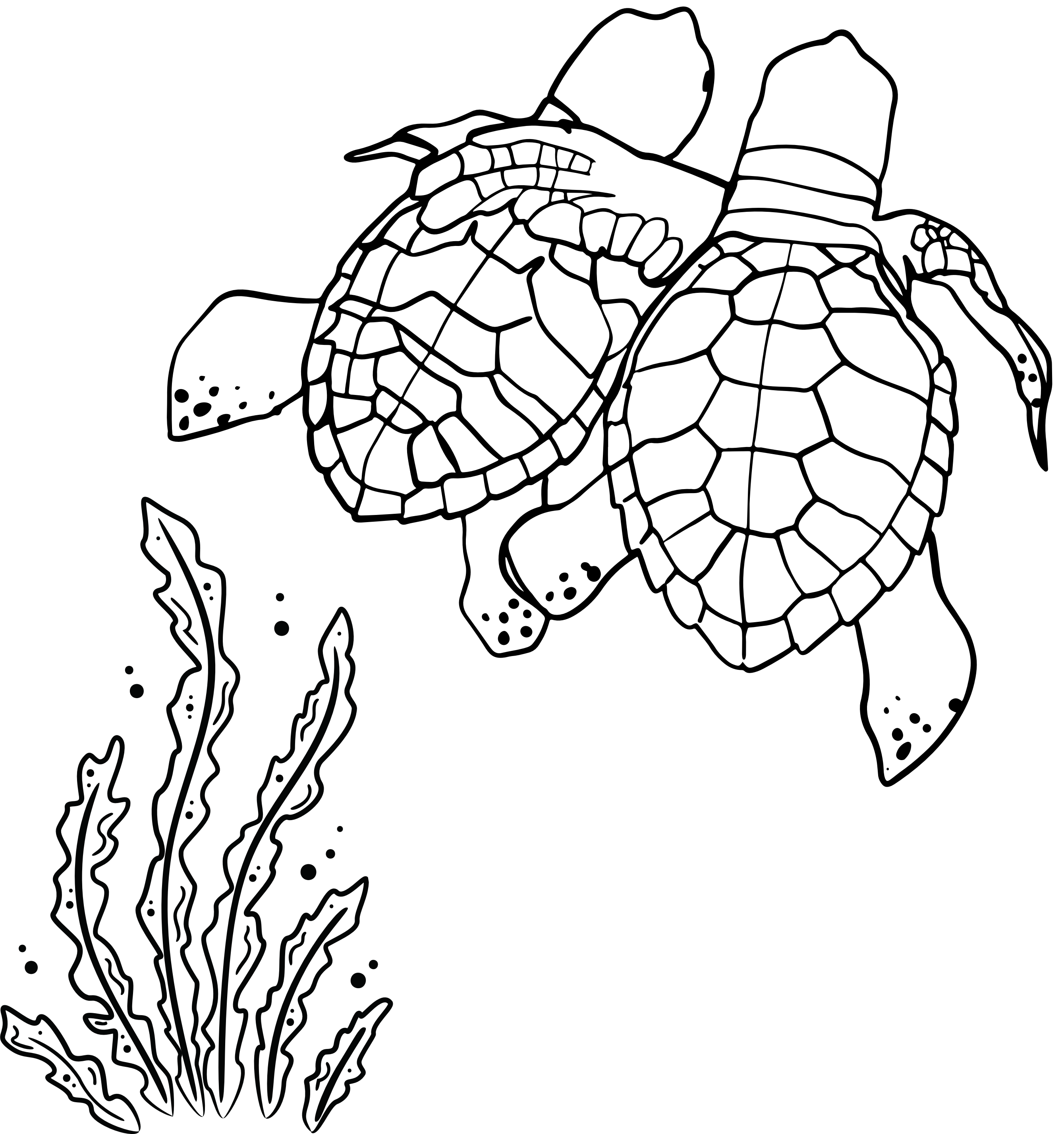
There are seven different species of sea turtles. The biggest is the leatherback sea turtle, which can weigh up to 2,000 pounds and be as long as 6-9 feet!



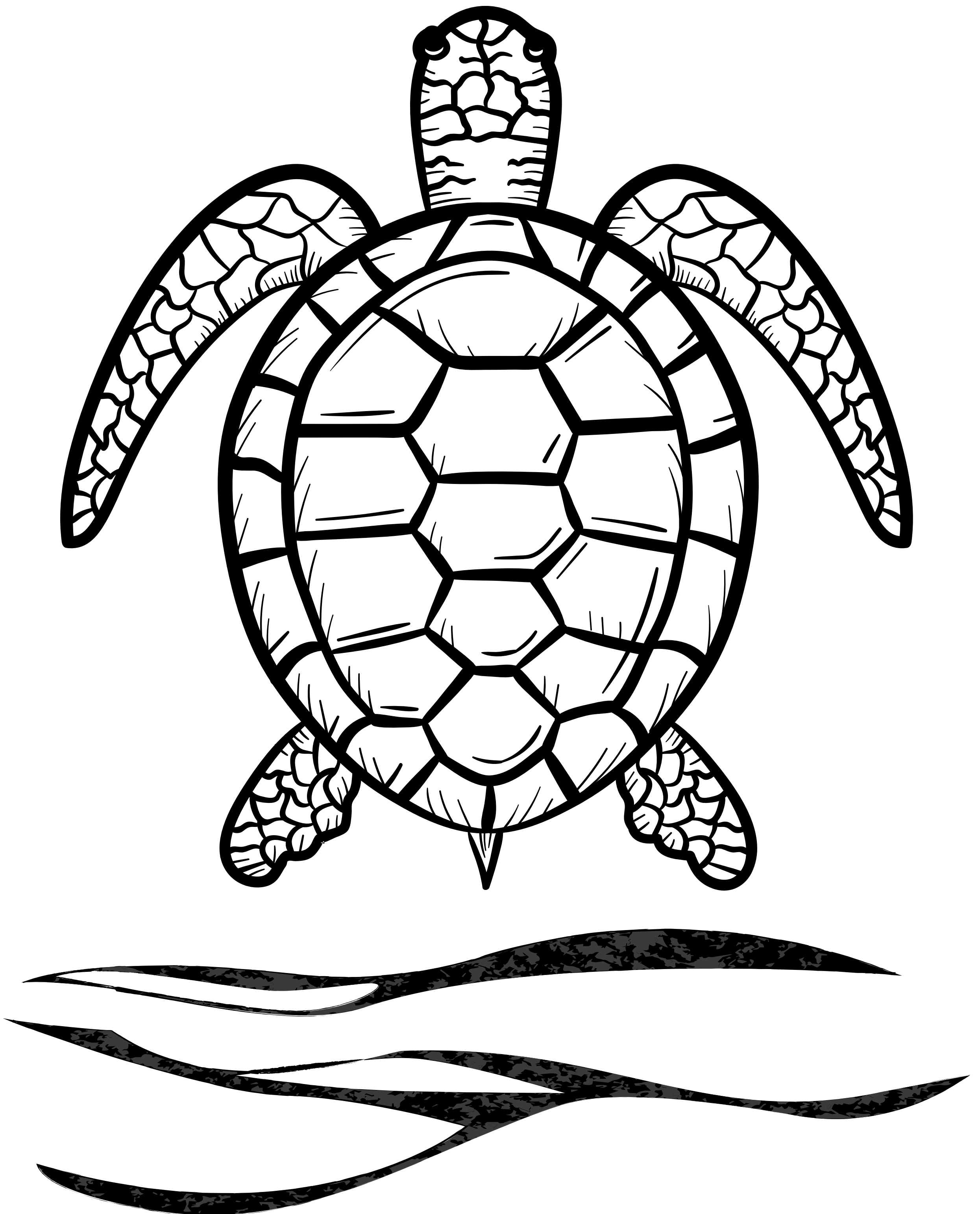
Turtles can live as long as humans, or even longer! The lifespan of sea turtles is estimated to be 50-100 years.



Sea turtles eat all kinds of different food, including jellyfish, sea sponges, crustaceans, and seagrass. They help maintain the ecosystem by preventing these species from becoming overgrown.



Sea turtles have been around for around 110 million years – since the time of the dinosaurs! It is important for us to protect these species so they can stay around for many more years.





To learn more about how EARTHDAY.ORG
and PBS protect endangered species,
please visit the following websites:

