

## Chelone

### Classification

**Kingdom:** Plantae

**Phylum:** Magnoliophyta

**Class:** Magnoliopsida

**Order:** Lamiales

**Family:** Plantaginaceae

**Genus:** *Chelone*



(For Further details [link](#))

### Habit and Habitat

**Diet:** Adult green sea turtles are herbivores, primarily feeding on algae and seagrass found in their feeding grounds.

**Migration:** They undertake long migrations between feeding grounds and nesting beaches.

**Nesting:** Females return to sandy beaches to lay their eggs, burying them in the sand above the high tide line.

Inhabits tropical and subtropical oceans, preferring shallow, coastal waters like bays, estuaries, and lagoons. A freshwater plant found in moist soil, woods, and along streams and

ponds in the southeastern United States. The White Turtlehead is known for its distinctive turtle-shaped flowers.

### Characteristics

- Most scientists recognize eight species of these marine reptiles. Experts can identify each by the number and pattern of scutes (horny plates) on the carapace (top shell).
- A leatherback turtle is covered with leathery skin, not scutes (horny plates) like other sea turtles. It is the only marine turtle whose backbone is not attached to the inside of its shell.
- Sea turtles are found in tropical and temperate seas throughout the world. Adults of most species inhabit shallow coastal waters. Some species migrate great distances from winter feeding grounds to summer nesting areas.
- Typically, the only time sea turtles leave the sea is when females haul out to lay eggs.
- Once sexually mature, female sea turtles will typically return to the beach area from which they originally hatched. These eggs then incubate beneath the sand for roughly 1.5 to 2.5 months, at the end of which time the eggs hatch in approximate unison. The newly hatched turtles attempt to scramble to the surface, down the beach, and past the shoreline - with the survivors continuing the cycle of birth, growth, and return.
- During the first year after hatching, many species of sea turtles are rarely seen. This first year is known as the "lost year" appearing in coastal areas.
- Green and black sea turtles feed on seagrasses and algae. Loggerheads' and ridleys' strong jaws can crush crabs, shrimps, and molluscs. Leatherbacks prey only on jellyfish and other soft-bodied animals.
- A sea turtle cannot retract its limbs, head or neck under its shell like a land turtle. The shell adaptations necessary for retractile limbs would impede rapid swimming.