



World Turtle Day Trivia



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation



1. How many-years-old is the oldest known sea turtle fossil?

- a) No fossils records have been found
- b) over 120 million years old
- c) 1 million years old
- d) 1000 years old



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2. True or false?

A turtle hatchling's gender depends on the temperature of the nest.



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3. How long can green turtles hold their breath underwater?

- a) 2 minutes
- b) 30 minutes
- c) 5 hours
- d) 10 hours



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4. What type of turtle is pictured in each photo?

- a) Loggerhead turtle
- b) Leatherback turtle
- c) Hawksbill turtle
- d) Flatback turtle





5. Where is the largest green turtle nesting site on the Great Barrier Reef?

- a) Lady Elliot Island
- b) Raine Island
- c) Avoid Island
- d) Lizard Island



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6. True or false?

When female marine turtles are ready to lay their own eggs, they return to the same nesting grounds where they were born.



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7. Why would you typically see a turtle tearing up?

- a) Because a bird has taken their hatchling
- b) Their nest was stolen by their sister
- c) To empty excess salt out of their eyes
- d) Because they've got a soft shell



8. How many species of marine turtle call the Great Barrier Reef home?

- a) 4
- b) 6
- c) 10
- d) 15



9. What is the typical lifespan of a turtle?

- a) 20 years
- b) 50 years
- c) 100 years
- d) 200 years



10. How many different bones make up the shell of a sea turtle?

- a) 10 bones
- b) 50 bones
- c) 100 bones
- d) 200 bones



11. What do you call a group of turtles?

- a) A bale of turtles
- b) A nest of turtles
- c) A dole of turtles
- d) All of the above



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12. What is the hawksbill turtle's favourite food?

- a) Fish
- b) Algae
- c) Starfish
- d) Sea sponges





13. How many kilos can the largest of all living turtles, the leatherback turtle, grow to weigh?

- a) 900 kg
- b) 500 kg
- c) 100 kg
- d) 50 kg



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14. When is the best time of year to see hatchlings on the Great Barrier Reef?

- a) January to March
- b) March to July
- c) July to October
- d) October to December



The answers...



1. How many-years-old is the oldest known sea turtle fossil?

- a) No fossil record have been found
- b) over 120 million years old
- c) 1 million years old
- d) 1000 years old

The oldest known sea turtle fossil is at least 120 million years old, making sea turtles some of the oldest creatures on the planet. That means they shared the planet with dinosaurs which became extinct around 65 million years ago.



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2. True or false? A turtle hatchling's gender depends on the temperature of the nest with hotter temperatures producing more males while more females emerge from cooler temperatures.

Is **true!** Hatchling gender DOES depend on the temperature of the nest with hotter temperatures producing more **FEMALES** and cooler temperatures producing **MALES**



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3. How long can green turtles hold their breath underwater?

- a) 2 minutes
- b) 30 minutes
- c) 5 hours**
- d) 10 hours



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4. What type of turtle is pictured in each photo?



c) Hawksbill turtle



a) Loggerhead turtle



d) Flatback turtle



b) Leatherback turtle





5. Where is the largest green turtle nesting site on the Great Barrier Reef?

- a) Lady Elliot Island
- b) Raine Island
- c) Avoid Island
- d) Lizard Island

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Raine Island Recovery Project has brought this critical nesting site back from the brink of collapse. Today, 640,000 additional green turtle hatchlings have already begun life on the Great Barrier Reef because of this project.



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6. True or false? When female marine turtles are ready to lay their own eggs, they return to the same nesting grounds where they were born.

True. The turtles rely on the earth's magnetic field to find their way home. That's because each part of the coastline has its own magnetic signature, which the animals remember and later use as an internal compass.



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7. Why would you typically see a turtle tearing up?

- a) Because a bird has taken their hatchling
- b) Their nest was stolen by their sister
- c) To empty excess salt out of their eyes
- d) Because they've got a soft shell

All are valid reasons for our turtle friends to shed a tear BUT typically it will be to empty the excess salt out of their eyes after a long swim or walk up the beach.



8. How many species of marine turtle call the Great Barrier Reef home?

- a) 4
- b) 6**
- c) 10
- d) 15

6 out of the 7 species of marine turtle call the Great Barrier Reef home:

1. Green turtle.
2. Loggerhead turtle.
3. Hawksbill turtle.
4. Flatback turtle.
5. Olive ridley turtle.
6. Leatherback turtle.



9. What is the typical lifespan of a turtle?

- a) 20 years
- b) 50 years
- c) 100 years
- d) 200 years

They live to around 100 years, which is also roughly the number of eggs female sea turtles lay when they nest.



10. How many different bones make up the shell of a sea turtle?

a) 10 bones

b) 50 bones

c) 100 bones

d) 200 bones

The shell of a sea turtle is incredibly strong; dubbed the carapace it is made up of about 50 different bones. The underside of the shell is called the plastron.



11. What do you call a group of turtles?

- a) A bale of turtles**
- c) A nest of turtles**
- d) A dole of turtles**
- e) All of the above**

Turtles are so special they have several collective nouns to describe them in a group.



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12. What is the hawksbill turtle's favourite food?

- a) Fish
- b) Algae
- c) Starfish
- d) Sea sponges**

The bird-like beak that gives them their name allows hawksbills to access cracks on coral reefs to reach sea sponges, which are pretty much all these fussy eaters want. If desperate, they will settle for an alternative cuisine.





13. How many kilos can the leatherback turtle grow to weigh?

a) 900 kg

b) 500 kg

c) 100 kg

d) 50 kg

The leatherback turtle is the largest of all living turtles and can grow to weigh a massive 900kg.



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14. When is the best time of year to see hatchlings on the Great Barrier Reef?

- a) *January to March*
- b) March to July
- c) July to October
- d) October to December

Summer heat is preferred by turtles as it means the sand is warm enough to incubate eggs; these are laid between November and January, with hatching commencing six to eight weeks later.



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Thank you for playing our World Turtle Day Trivia!

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