

# REEF RELIEF

## PAPER PLATE SEA TURTLE CRAFT

In this activity you will make sea turtles out of paper plates and cut outs. We encourage you to design your turtle after an actual species of sea turtle.

### Background:

- Sea turtles are marine reptiles, this means they breathe air with lungs, are vertebrates (have a backbone), have scales (in the form of scutes; the pannels on their shells/carapace), and spend their whole lives in the ocean, only coming on land to lay their eggs.
- There are only 7 species of sea turtles in the whole world: Green, Kemp's Ridley, Loggerhead, Hawksbill, Leatherback, Olive Ridley, and Australian Flatback.

### Materials:

- Paper plate or round piece of paper (6" diameter suggested)
- Coloring utensils
- Scissors
- Glue
- Body part cut outs
- Species Information pages

### Prep:

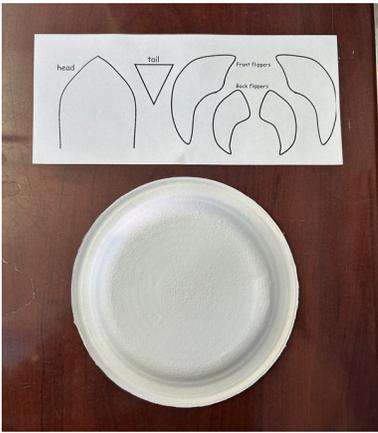
- Have your paper plate or prepare a round cut out of a piece of paper.
- Print out a few copies of each species information page (pages with two copies of each species per page) and cut in half to provide students to help them make their craft.
- Print out body part cut out sheet in as many copies as you need. There are 3 sets per page, cut into strips so you can hand each student one set.

### Directions:

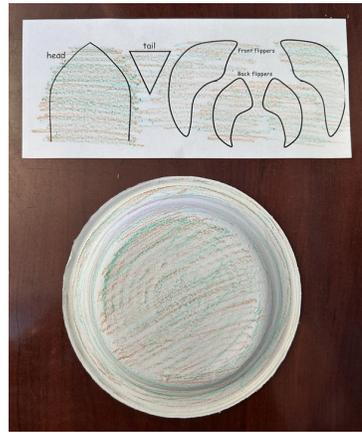
*This activity can be modified for different age ranges. Please follow the direction below appropriate for your level learner.*

- Display the page with all 7 sea turtle species' information on your board, and have your students pick which sea turtle species they would like to make.
  - As they choose, provide them with a copy of the species information page for their turtle.
- Pass out one plate and one set of body parts to each student.
- Have each student write their name on the part of the plate you would eat off of, then flip it over.
- Color the bottom of the plate (so it sticks up like a shell) and body parts in the proper colors to match the sea turtle species being made.
  - Lower level- focus on coloring the proper colors of each species.
  - Upper level- have the students attempt to draw the proper scute patterns on the carapace and/or head of their turtle for an added challenge.
- After coloring, pass out scissors and glue.
  - \*Optional Upper Level- for added challenge, those making the hawksbill sea turtle can cut jagged edges/triangles on the lower half of the carapace and those making the leatherback can cut their carapace to be more of a narrow oval shape.
- Cut out body parts, apply glue to the front of the body part in the indicated space and stick it to the bottom of the plate, so the body part looks like it is coming out of the shell/carapace.
  - The head will be at the top of the plate, tail at the bottom. The larger flippers will be the front flippers towards the top, and the smaller ones the back flippers towards the bottom.

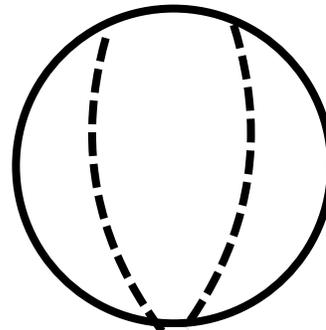
# STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS



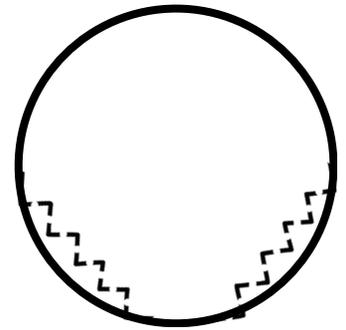
1. Give each student a paper plate and body part cut out strip



2. Color the plate/carapace and body parts the color of your sea turtle

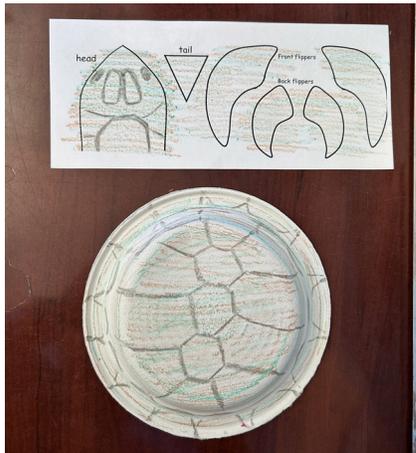


**LOGGERHEAD**



**HAWSBILL**

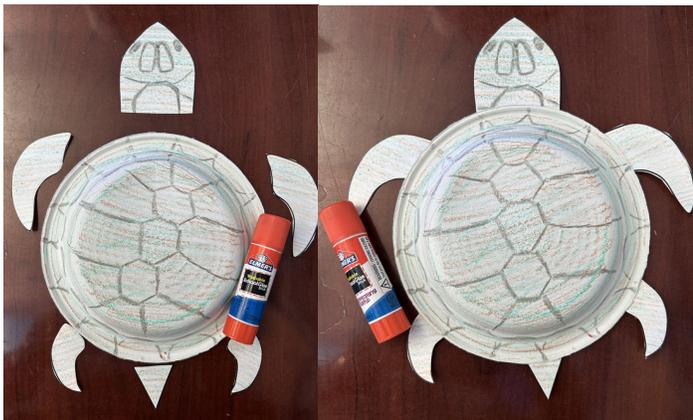
3. \*Optional for upper level\*- Cut the carapace narrower for leatherback or with jagged edges for hawksbill.



3. \*Optional for upper level\*  
Draw the proper scute patterns for your species turtle (see species info sheets)



4. Cut out the body parts

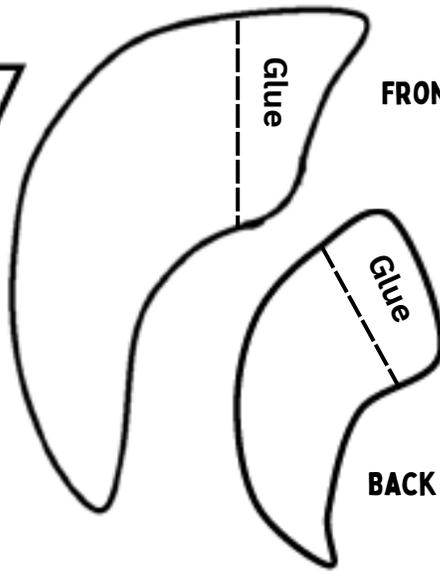
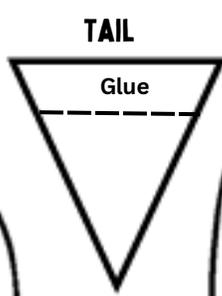
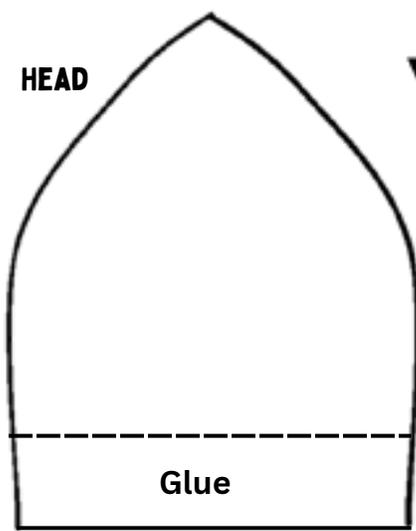


5. Apply the glue to the space indicated on the front of each body part (not pictured) and attach to the underside of the plate

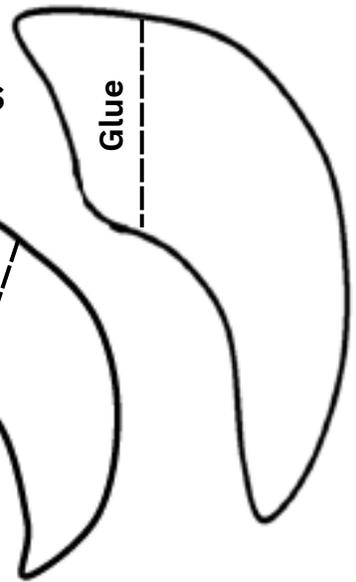


6. Your sea turtle is ready to swim in the ocean!

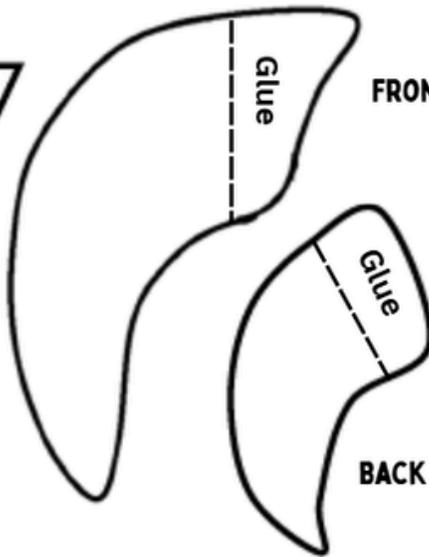
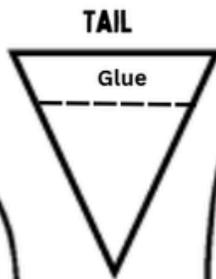
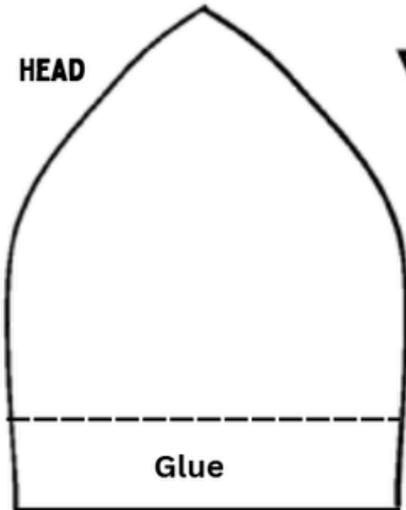
*Photos owned by Reef Relief.*



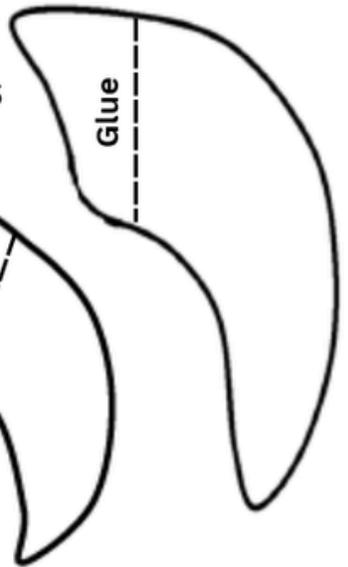
**FRONT FLIPPERS**



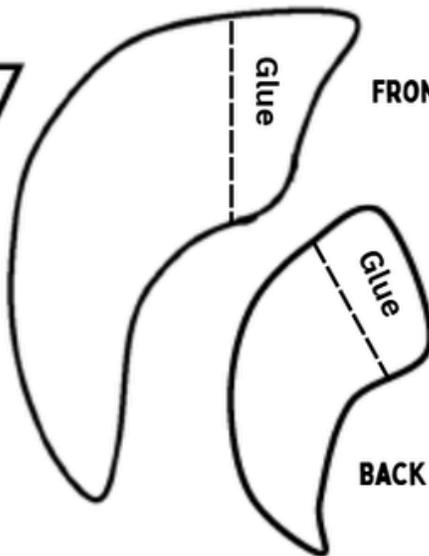
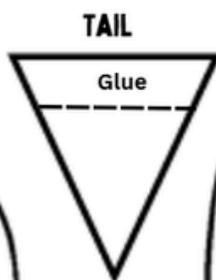
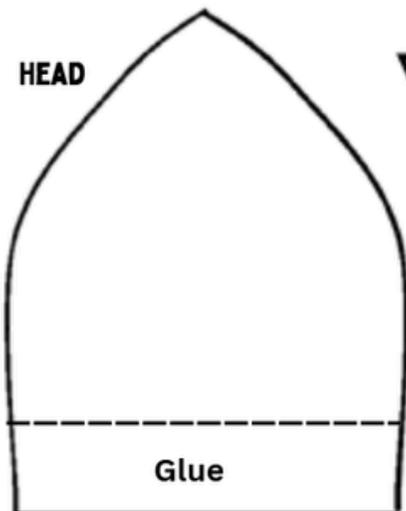
**BACK FLIPPERS**



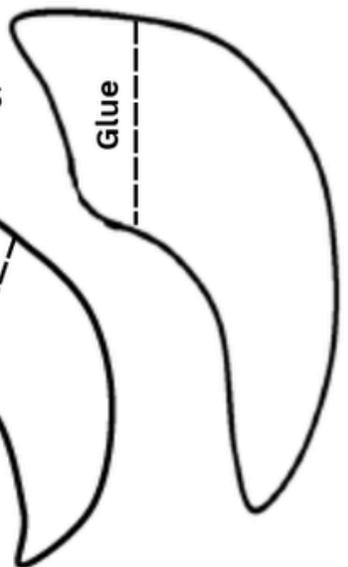
**FRONT FLIPPERS**



**BACK FLIPPERS**



**FRONT FLIPPERS**

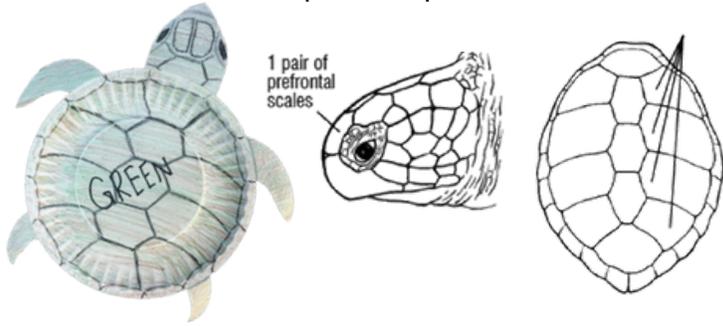


**BACK FLIPPERS**

## GREEN

Dark Green, brown

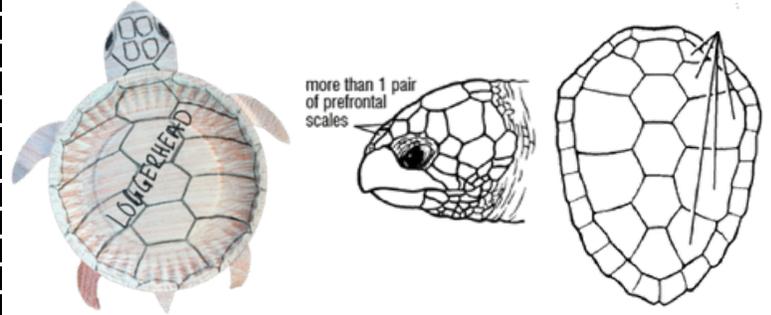
4 lateral & 1 pair of prefrontal scutes



## LOGGERHEAD

Reddish Brown

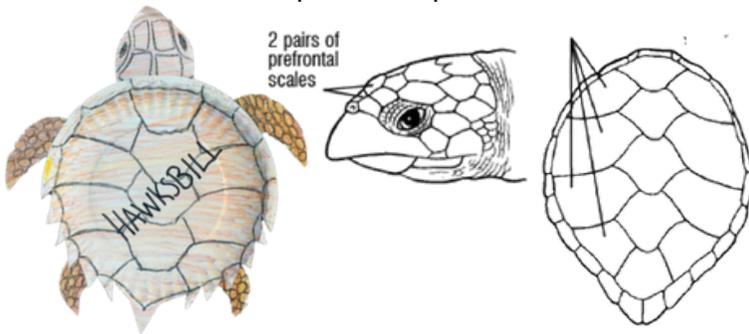
5 lateral & 2 pairs of prefrontal scutes



## HAWKBILL

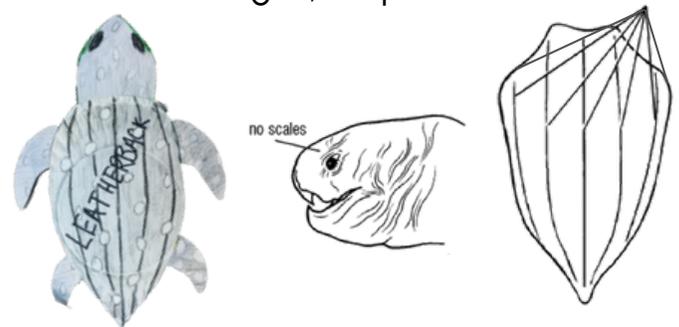
Orange, red, yellow, brown

4 lateral & 2 pairs of prefrontal scutes



## LEATHERBACK

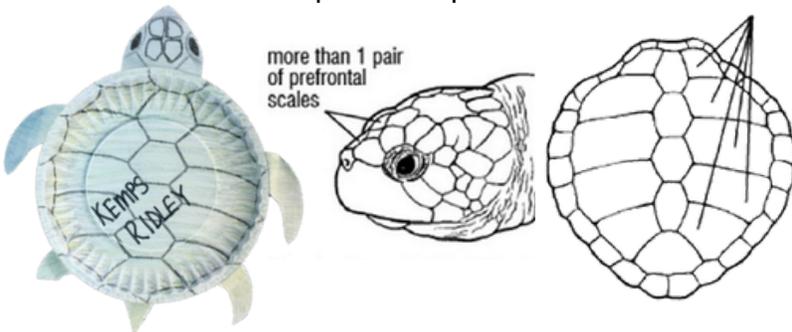
Black, grey, or blue with white spots  
7 dorsal ridges, no prefrontal scutes



## KEMP'S RIDLEY

Light Green, brown

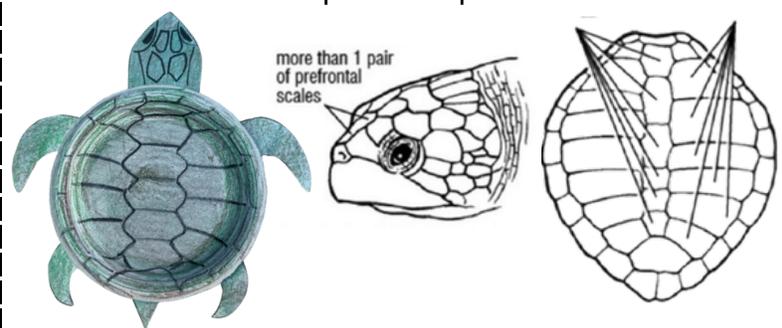
5 lateral & 2 pairs of prefrontal scutes



## OLIVE RIDLEY

Dark Green, grey

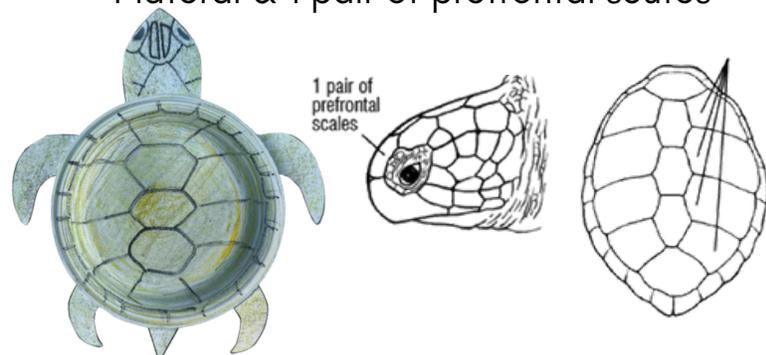
6-9 lateral & 2 pairs of prefrontal scutes



## AUSTRALIAN FLATBACK

Light Green, grey, yellow

4 lateral & 1 pair of prefrontal scutes



*Paper plate turtle photos owned by Reef Relief.*

*Reef Relief does not own the rights to the scute pattern photos.  
Credit: ResearchGate; "Reproduced from Wyneken, 2001,  
illustrations by Dawn Witherington."*