



GREEN SEA TURTLE

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DID YOU KNOW?

Green turtles are the most common species of marine turtle in the Indian Ocean.

WHERE AT AQWA?

Are we caring for a green sea turtle in our Turtle Pool rehabilitation centre?

SIZE: <150CM

DIET: SEAGRASS, ALGAE

MAIN PREDATOR: TIGER SHARKS

HABITAT: CORAL REEFS, SEAGRASS MEADOWS

FOUND: WORLDWIDE WARM SUBTROPICAL AND TROPICAL OCEANS.

EASY BEING GREEN

Green sea turtles get their name from their greenish body fat not their shell colour!

TURTELY UNIQUE

There are 7 marine turtles worldwide and 6 are found in W.A. Green sea turtles have a dome like shell that is tear-drop shaped, 4 pairs of costal scales and two thick scales between the eyes.

BIG GREEN EATING MACHINES

Turtles are the only group of reptiles that don't have teeth! Instead they have beaks that are adapted for feeding.

Adult green sea turtles are vegetarian and use their beak to scrape algae off rocks and corals. Their jaws also work alike scissors - perfect for cutting off some seagrass and algae to eat.

By grazing on the tips of seagrass green turtles increase the productivity and nutrient quality of seagrass blades, helping to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

SWIFT SWIMMERS

Sea turtles can't pull their limbs into their shell like land tortoises, instead they are built for swiftness with strong front flippers designed for paddling and diving!

When turtles dive they dive to the seafloor to eat and 'sleep'. Green sea turtles can stay underwater for upto 5 hours due to their large flexible lungs and the extra oxygen carrying cells in their blood. They are also able to control their metabolism and slow their heart rate to conserve oxygen - their heart may beat just once every 9 minutes!