

Sea Turtles

Did you ever wonder why sea turtles are endangered? Why is it so **urgent** for sea turtles to be protected? What caused them to become endangered? Practically all sea turtles are endangered, some of the species are even critically endangered.

Sea turtles spend the majority of their lives in the water. Although they still have to breathe air, these species can hold their breath or **romp** all they want underwater for about 2 hours. They can be found in a **variety** of coastal waters like bays, estuaries, and lagoons. It's **essential** for sea turtles to live near land because they need to lay eggs. If sea turtles laid their eggs in the water, they would not be able to **survive** because they still need to breathe air.

Next, sea turtles face many **fatal** threats, most of them from humans. For instance, bycatching is a huge threat to sea turtles. Since 1990, fishers have been **constantly** and accidentally **hauling** sea turtles from water when they were trying to catch something else. Another **troublesome** threat that sea turtles face is plastic pollution. When humans pollute the beaches with plastic instead of recycling it, it can be a big **disaster** for sea turtles. Sea turtles may mistake plastic bags for jellyfish and eat them. **Digesting** too many pieces of **toxic** plastic could result in death. An **effective** way to prevent this from happening is to always remember to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Recycling materials or reusing plastic water bottles could be an **extraordinary** way to help marine life like sea turtles. On the other hand, another threat that sea turtles face is coastal development. When humans **construct** hotels or houses near the water, sea turtles are most likely not going to go anywhere near. While sea turtles are left **enclosed** inside the waters, they are not able to lay eggs or reproduce.

Finally, if sea turtles disappeared and became extinct, many marine species would be gone and the waters would be **vacant**. Green sea turtles are one of the only animals that **digest** seagrass, and seagrass is an **essential** plant that fish **depend** on to hide from predators. Without seagrass, fish might already be endangered! Additionally, when sea turtles come to shore to lay eggs, the eggs help absorb nutrition for beaches and dunes. Beaches and dunes lack vegetation, so turtle eggs are crucial for the ecosystem.

All in all, sea turtles are endangered animals that face many **extreme** threats including bycatching, coastal development, pollution, and more. They live in shallow, coastal waters like bays or lagoons. Sea turtles crucial role in the ecosystem because fish use seagrass to hide, green sea turtles are one of the few animals that eat seagrass, and turtle eggs help absorb nutrition for beaches.