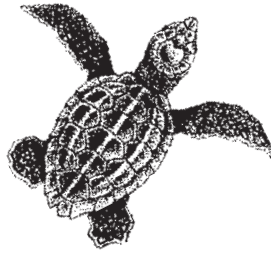


TURTLE



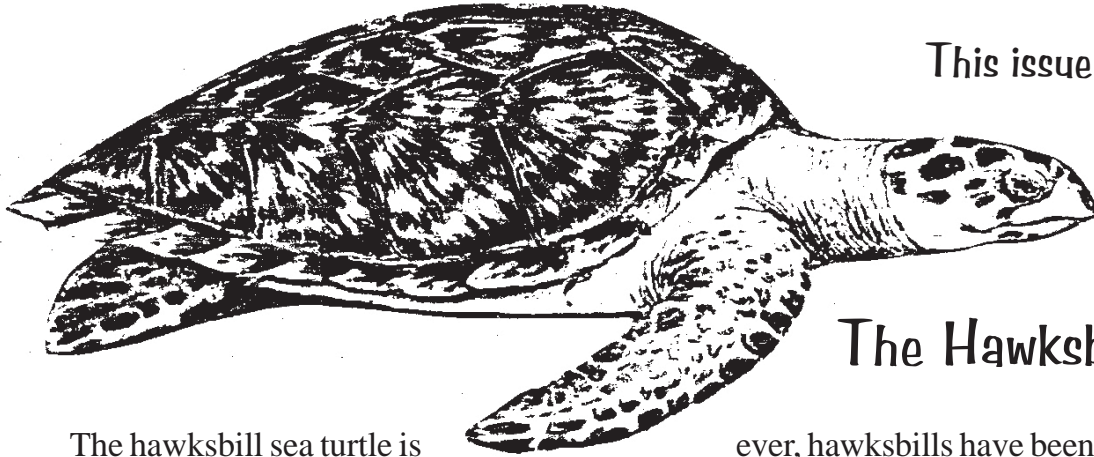
TIDES

Official Newsletter of the Sea Turtle Survival League's Sea Turtle KidsClub

Issue 3, 2007

CREATURE FEATURE

This issue's featured species:



The Hawksbill Sea Turtle

The hawksbill sea turtle is an endangered species. Like other sea turtle species, it is endangered because of habitat loss, pollution and other problems. But, hawksbill turtles face other threats.

Hawksbill turtles have a beautiful, streaked shell of brown, yellow, white, and beige. This beautiful shell is made into jewelry, hair ornaments and other trinkets. While most countries discourage trade in products made of turtle shell, many countries still produce these items. Japan has an especially big demand for hawksbill shell, which they call *bekko*. Scientists believe that trade in turtle shell is the biggest problem facing the endangered hawksbill population.

Another important factor in the survival of the hawksbill is the health of coral reefs. Coral reefs are where the turtles find shelter and their favorite food, sponges. In many parts of the world, coral reefs are in trouble because of pollution and damage by boats.

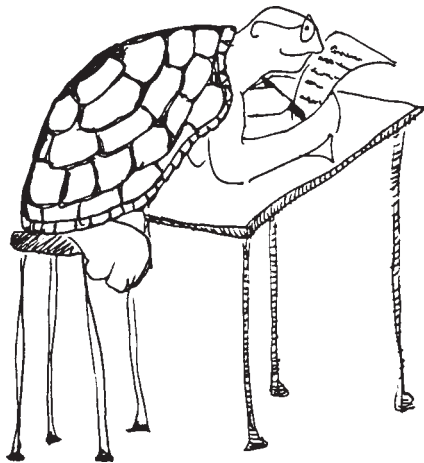
Sponges are a strange diet for a turtle because many sponges are made of tiny glass-like needles, and are considered poisonous. How-

ever, hawksbills have been found with these glass needles stuck in their stomach and intestines, but they don't seem to be bothered by them at all! Besides sponges, hawksbills also like to eat squid, sea anemones, and some shellfish.

This turtle is called "hawksbill" because of the shape of its head and jaw, which is beak-like. Baby hatchling hawksbills weigh about one-half ounce (14 grams). Adults weigh between 80 and 140 pounds and are two to three feet long. Hawksbill turtles are found only in warm, tropical waters. Like other sea turtles, the hawksbill lays its eggs on the beach during the summer months. It crawls ashore and finds a quiet, dark spot. It then uses its flippers to dig a hole, and drops about 160 ping pong ball sized eggs in the hole. It covers up the eggs with sand and goes back into the ocean.

The baby turtles hatch from the eggs about two months later. They crawl out of the nest and scurry toward the ocean. If the hatchling is a female and lives to be at least 25 years old, she will come back to the same beach years later and lay her own eggs!

TURTLE TIDES



Are you doing something cool that relates to sea turtles and their habitats?

If you, your family and friends, your school or the people in your community are doing something to help save sea turtles, please let me know about it!

Send me your artwork, letters, photos and poems. I may not be able to return them, but I'll print many of them in the Turtle Tides Newsletter. Please include your name, age and address and mail it to:

**Turtle Tides Editor
4424 NW 13th St
Ste B-11
Gainesville, FL 32609**

**or send an email to:
kimberly@ccturtle.org**

Thanks!!

Paul's Corner

My name is Paul Lowery, and my wife and I want to help sea turtles. We travel to a lot of schools and talk to many people about sea turtles being endangered and needing our help. We even wrote a book, "Do you know where sea turtles go?," available through the CCC, that helps children understand the circle of life of a loggerhead sea turtle.



I would like to tell you a story about what one school class in Anchorage, Alaska did after reading our book. Mr. Lucas Saltzman's second grade class decided that they would like to adopt Zoe, a leatherback currently being tracked on CCC's website. After adopting Zoe they decided they would like to know more about endangered sea turtles. Each student was given an assignment to go to the library and consult books and also the CCC website and write down five facts about sea turtles to share with the class. For an activity they decided to construct a paper mache life size model of Zoe, their adopted turtle. Walnuts were used for eyes and pupils were painted to look real. Then, the class studied sea turtle conservation and their habitats. They decided to create a science fair project about sea turtles and won their school science fair. They also won a ribbon and award at the state fair.

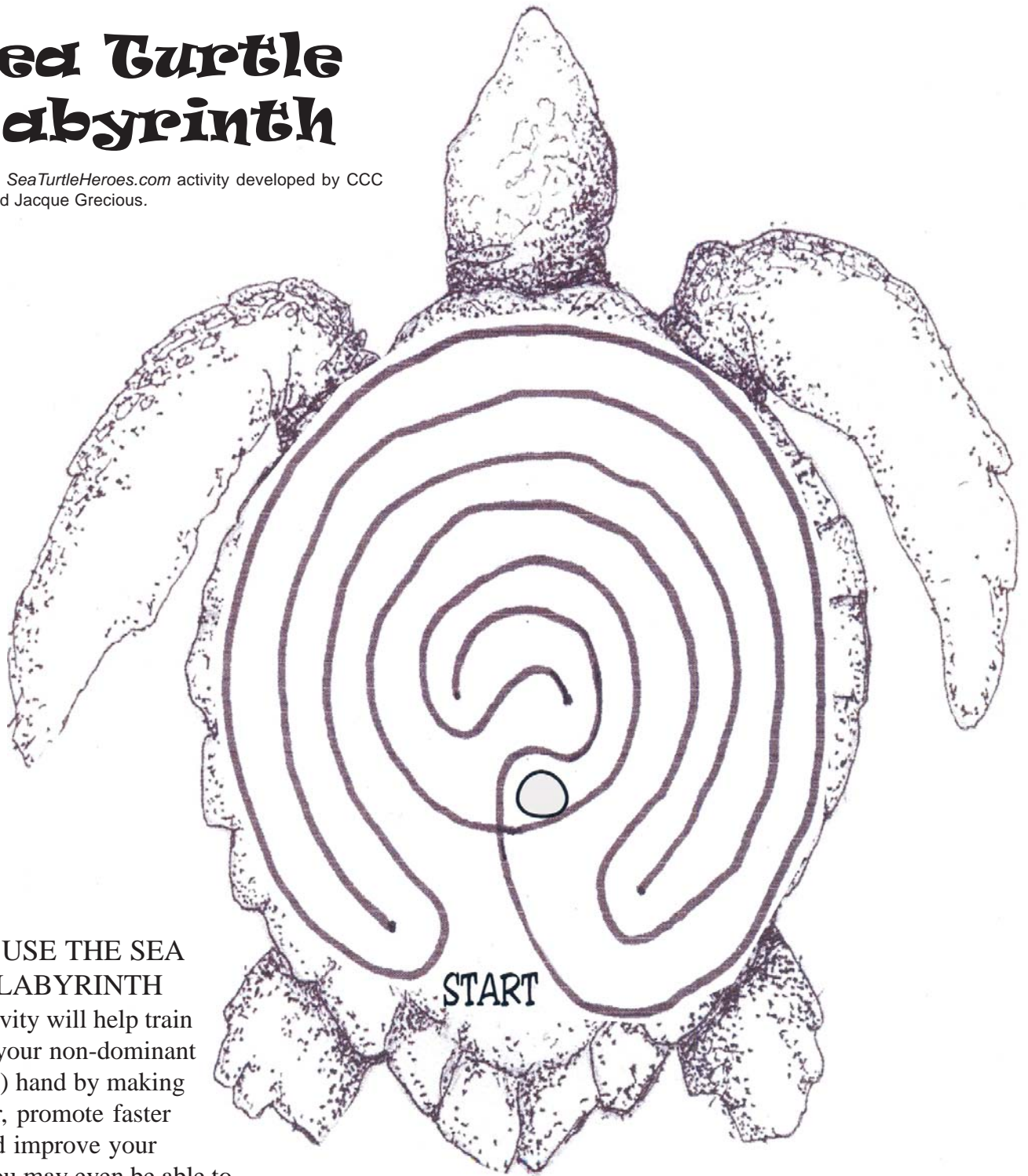
Each student used their writing skills to send my wife, Betty, and I an Alaskan post card to thank us for our book and the activities available to them through the CCC. Below is a picture of the students painting their life size paper maché leatherback. Thank you boys and girls for all your support and for caring about sea turtles!

Happy Turtleing,
Paul Lowery



Sea Turtle Labyrinth

Adapted from a *SeaTurtleHeroes.com* activity developed by CCC members Ed and Jacque Grecious.

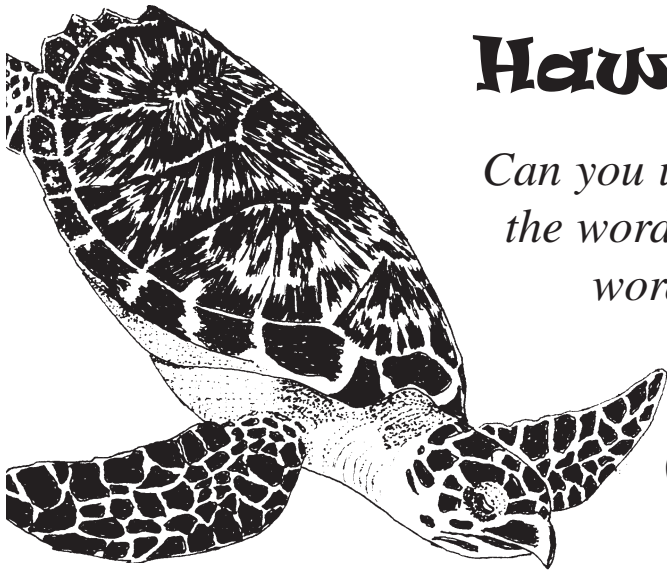


HOW-TO USE THE SEA TURTLE LABYRINTH

This activity will help train you to use your non-dominant (lesser used) hand by making you sharper, promote faster reflexes and improve your memory. You may even be able to eventually write with either hand and much more.

Go to start at the bottom of the turtle labyrinth and move slowly with your dominant hand (the one you use every day) to the turtle egg at the end of the path. Stop for a few seconds, then return backwards to the start. Now, change to your non-dominant hand and repeat the journey to the egg and out again. Do this several times and you will notice an improvement in your hand/eye coordination. It's challenging and rewarding. So remember, go slowly, stay on the path, and have fun!

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● *Turtle Tides* is an environmental education publication for children published by the Caribbean
● Conservation Corporation. The Sea Turtle Survival League and Sea Turtle KidsClub are programs of the
● non-profit Caribbean Conservation Corporation. Founded in 1959, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation is
● the world's oldest sea turtle research and conservation organization.
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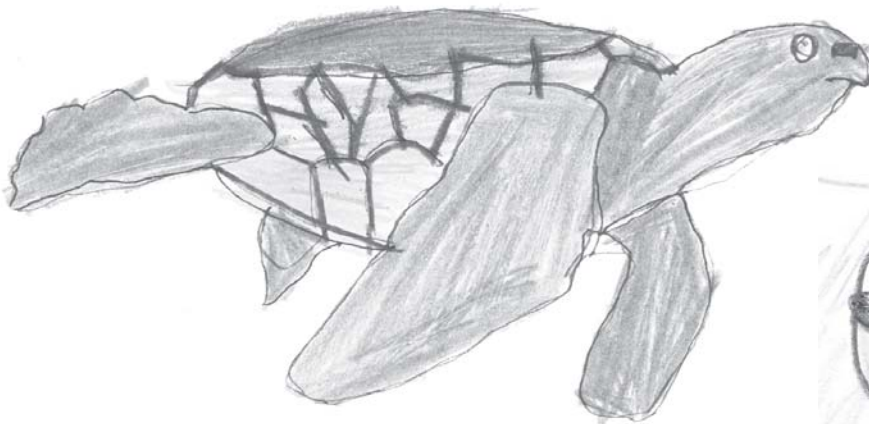


Hawksbill Scramble

Can you unscramble the letters below to find the words that fit in the blanks? All of the words come from this issue's Creature Feature on the front page. Answers can be found on the bottom of page 2 (no fair peeking!).

1. A hawksbill turtle's favorite food are GSOPNSE. _____
2. Hawksbills get their name because their jaws are shaped like KABES. _____
3. Because of pollution, poaching and habitat loss, the hawksbill sea turtle is GREDENANDE. _____
4. The favorite places of hawksbills are RLCAO EFSRE. _____
5. A major threat to hawksbills is humans hunting them for their beautiful LEHLSS. _____

Turtle Artwork



Erin Ambrosio, Age 10

Jessica Loewe



CARIBBEAN



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