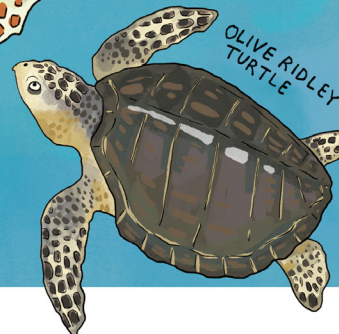
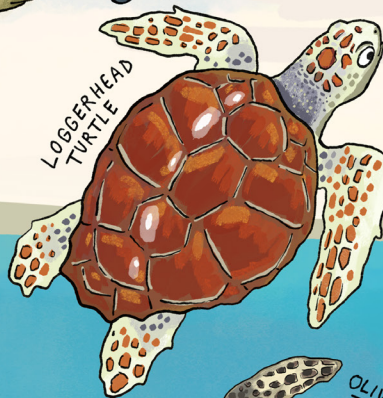
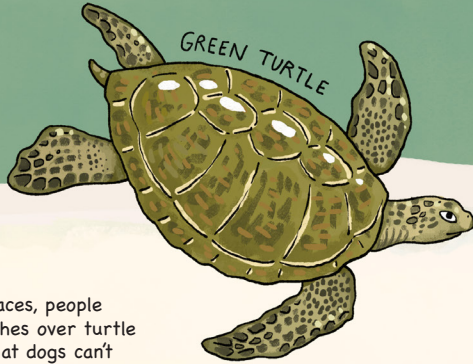
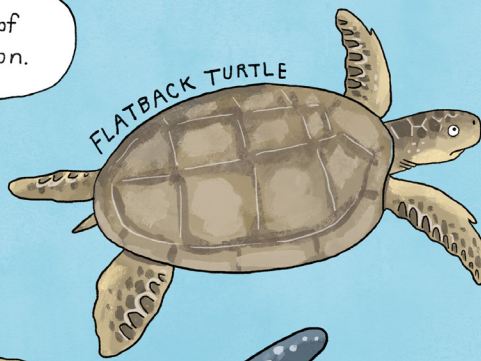
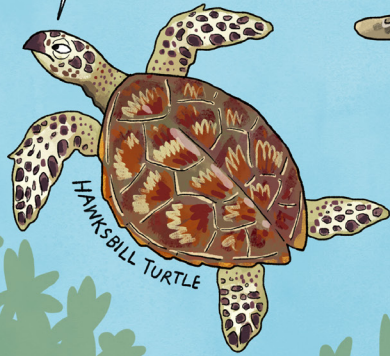


# TURTLES

There are **six** species of turtle in the Pacific region.



By planting trees to shade their nests or by cooling the eggs with seawater we can help keep the turtle population balanced.

In some places, people install hatches over turtle nests so that dogs can't get in - but baby turtles are free to emerge.

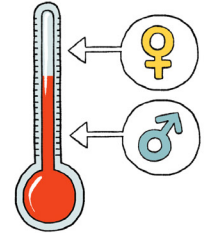
There are lots of people in the Pacific who want to protect turtles, and many communities look after turtle populations that nest on their beaches. Some communities are working with scientists to track turtles in order to find out where they go to sea.

## THREATS TO TURTLES

Where did the beach go?

Climate change and sea level rise are having big impacts on turtles. Turtles return to the beach where they hatched to breed, but rising sea levels mean beaches where they can nest are shrinking. Increasingly frequent storms and big tides can wash nests away.

Turtles are reptiles, which means temperature can change the sex of their babies while they grow in the egg. Warming temperatures caused by climate change mean there will be more female turtles hatching than males - a problem when it comes to making the next generation of turtles.



Turtle eggs used to be a common food source for local people, but turtle populations have dropped dramatically and they no longer have eggs to spare. The western pacific population of leatherback turtles has decreased over 80% in the past 28 years. Predators like dogs also eat turtle eggs.



Products made from turtle shells are often sold in tourist shops, but in some places it is illegal to harvest and trade turtles, and international trade is prohibited under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).



Like seabirds, baby turtles get confused by lights at night. When nesting beaches are surrounded by bright lights, hatchlings can end up going in the wrong direction and never make it to the ocean.

