**INTERESTING FACT # 1**
Marine turtles dig a nest and egg chamber in the sand dunes. After laying the eggs, the female has no further contact with the offspring.

**INTERESTING FACT # 2**
Hatchlings dig themselves out of the nest, and then run across the beach to the sea.

**INTERESTING FACT # 3**
Turtles return to the same beach where they were born to lay their own eggs.

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**Loggerhead Turtle**
*Caretta caretta*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Average weight/size:** Adults 100kg / 1-1.5m in length; Hatchlings 30g / 4cm in length.

**Diet:** Jellyfish, shellfish, and sea urchins.

**Appearance:** Heart-shaped, red-brown to brown carapace (shell) with 5 pairs of costal scales. Large, solid head and neck.

**Where am I found (habitat):**
Adults feed in coastal waters, bays and estuaries in WA, NT, QLD & NSW, and nest on subtropical beaches. Juveniles drift on the open ocean.

**Population numbers:** Nationally endangered, with numbers in QLD declining.

**Other key info:** In Australia, mating and breeding occurs during the summer months.

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**WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP THIS SPECIES SURVIVE?**

**Protect important habitat, such as nesting and foraging areas.**
Nesting turtles are at particular risk of disturbance. Don’t touch or disturb nesting females.

**Take care when driving on a turtle nesting beach.**
Reduce boat speed to allow turtles to dive away from your boat.

**Reduce marine debris and its impact on marine turtles.**
Manmade waste such as discarded nets and plastic rubbish are killing turtles.

**Support organisations that are removing these items from our oceans.**
Join local cleanup programs. Make sure your rubbish does not find its way to our oceans.

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*Compiled by Imelda Jennings*

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