

Sea Turtle Diets Assessment

Answer Key

1. Fill in the chart with sea turtle beak information.

Sea Turtle Species	Describe Beak Shape	What Could This Turtle Eat?
Loggerhead	Hard	Mollusks (snails, clams), crustaceans (crabs, lobsters), urchins, corals
Green	Jagged edges	Sea grasses, seaweeds, algae
Hawksbill	Hook shaped	Sponges
Leatherback	Soft with point at end	Jellies

2. If you were analyzing the feces of a loggerhead sea turtle, what organism could you find (list one)?

Parts of mollusks (snails, clams), crustaceans (crabs, lobsters), urchins and/or corals

3. If you were analyzing the feces of a leatherback sea turtle, what organism would you most likely find?

Jelly remains (nematocyst cells)

4. Why do sea turtles ingest marine debris? What types of marine debris do sea turtles often ingest? What could happen to a sea turtle that ingests marine debris?

They ingest debris because they think it is food. They ingest plastic bags, plastic, rope, balloons, string, rubber (pretty much anything they see). Debris can make them very sick and if they can't pass it in their feces, they could die from starvation or other issues.

5. List two ways that you can decrease the amount of litter in the marine environment?

Don't litter, pick up trash, be careful when fishing/crabbing, use canvas bags, recycle, use less plastic