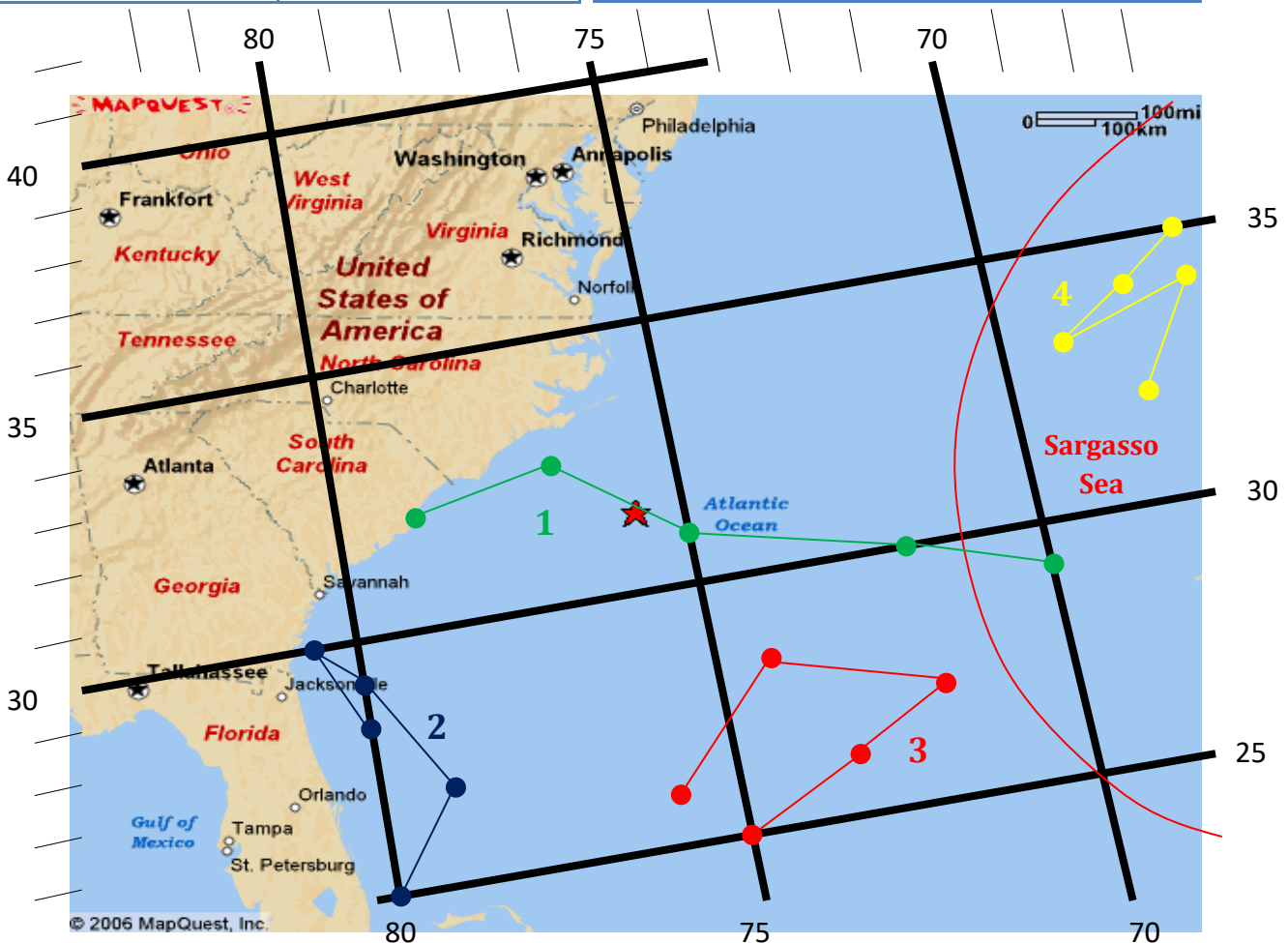


Sea Turtle Navigation Answer Key

Plot each set of points on the given map. Connect the dots of each turtle separately, making sure to use a different color writing utensil for each so they can easily be distinguished. Use the plotted sea turtle data to answer the questions.

Sea Turtle #1		Sea Turtle #2	
Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
32°N	79°W	25°N	80°W
32°N	77°W	27°N	79°W
31°N	75°W	29°N	80°W
30°N	72°W	30°N	81°W
29°N	70°W	28°N	80°W

Sea Turtle #3		Sea Turtle #4	
Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
25°N	75°W	35°N	67°W
26°N	73°W	34°N	68°W
27°N	72°W	33°N	69°W
28°N	74°W	34°N	67°W
26°N	76°W	32°N	68°W



Sea Turtle Navigation Answer Key

Sea turtles 1, 2, 3 and 4 are all the same species and the data was taken during nesting season (May-July). Each one represents a different life stage of a sea turtle. The life stages include hatchling, juvenile, adult male and nesting female. Answer the following questions using your plotted sea turtle points.

1. What species of sea turtle could these plots represent? Why?

(Will need to use the range data from the Sea Turtle Identification Key to help answer this.)

This could be a loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, green or leatherback sea turtle because all of these species can be found off the coast of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina during nesting season.

2. What life stage is turtle #1? Why?

Turtle #1 is a hatchling sea turtle because hatchlings are born on the beach and after they hatch they spend several days swimming to the Sargasso Sea for protection.

3. What life stage is turtle #2? Why?

Turtle #2 is a nesting female because during nesting season females stay close to shore and when needed, go onshore to lay their eggs.

4. What life stage is turtle #3? Why?

Turtle #3 is an adult male because adult males stay offshore their whole lives and that is what this turtle is doing.

5. What life stage is turtle #4? Why?

Turtle #4 is a juvenile because it is staying inside the protection of the Sargasso Sea. Juveniles do this for several years, not only for protection under the Sargasso seaweed, but also because of the abundance of prey that live there as well.

6. Why is it important to know where sea turtles go throughout their lives?

By understanding where sea turtles live through every stage of their life, scientists can better protect their habitats and their food sources.