Sea Turtle Diets Data Sheet Answer Key

South Carolina Aquarium

Name: For Teacher Use Only!

Lab Station 1 – Sea Turtle Beaks

For this station, the species answers will be Green, Loggerhead, Leatherback or Hawksbill Sea Turtle. Use each one only once.

	Sea Turtle A	Sea Turtle B	Sea Turtle C	Sea Turtle D
Describe the beak	Jagged edges	Brown and yellow, hooked at end (looks like it has a overbite)	Yellow, large, looks hard	Black, softer looking, curved point
What prey could this type of beak eat?	Grasses and other vegetation (seaweeds and algae)	Sponges and corals	Hard shelled things like crabs, snails and lobster	Jellies
What sea turtle species could this represent?	Green Sea Turtle	Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Leatherback Sea Turtle
Why?	They are the only sea turtle species to primarily eat sea grasses and sea weeds	They have a curved beak for biting of chunks of sponges	They have a large head with a strong beak for eating shelled prey	They primarily eat jellies and need the sharp point (cusp) to pierce the jelly

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Lab Station 2 – Sea Turtle Feces Investigation

For this station, the species answers will be Green, Hawksbill, Loggerhead or Leatherback Sea Turtle. Use each one only once.

Feces Sample A	What organism has silica spicules?	Sponges
	What species sea turtle could this represent?	Hawksbill Sea Turtle
	Why?	Hawksbills eat sponges by chopping off sections with their curved beak
Feces Sample B	What organism has nematocysts?	Jellies
	What species sea turtle could this represent?	Leatherback Sea Turtle
	Why?	Leatherbacks have a sharp cusp for piercing jellies
Feces Sample C	What organisms do you see in the picture?	Mollusks (moon snails, whelks and lettered olives), crab claws and shells
	What species sea turtle could this represent?	Loggerhead Sea Turtle
	Why?	Loggerheads have a large, strong beak for crushing hard prey like snails and crabs
Feces Sample D	What was found in the feces?	Marine vegetation
	What species sea turtle could this represent?	Green Sea Turtle
	Why?	Greens primarily eat sea grasses, seaweeds and algae with their serrated beak