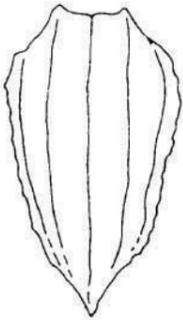


# MARINE TURTLES IDENTIFICATION KEY

Flexible carapace with:

- no scutes (plates)
- 5 to 7 ridges
- black with white spots



Leathery, flexible carapace  
Dark with white spots  
Jaw deeply notched

**Leatherback turtle**  
(*Dermochelys coriacea*)

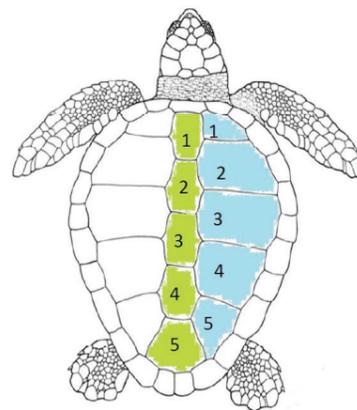
Bony carapace with:

- scutes (plates)
- no ridges

**4 pairs of lateral scutes**

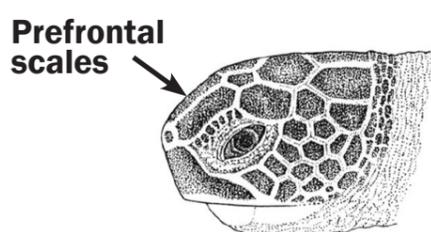
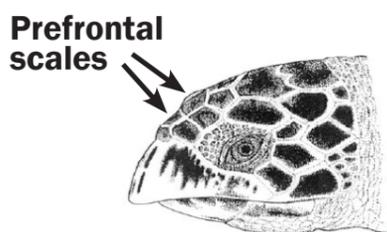
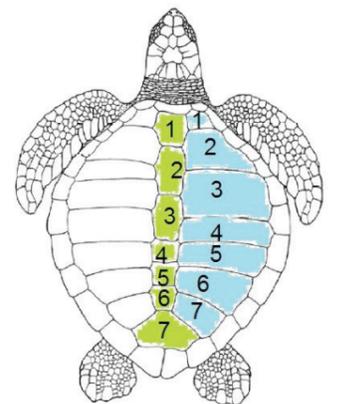
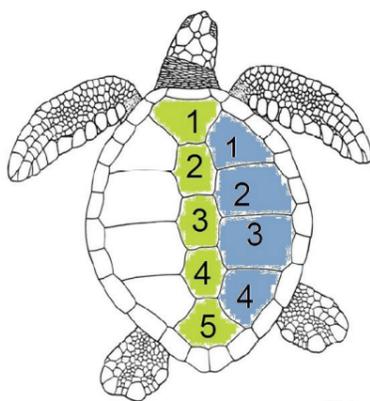
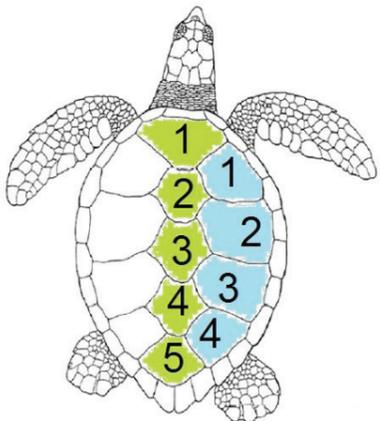
**5 pairs of lateral scutes**

**6 or more pairs of lateral scutes**  
(sometimes asymmetrical)



Ridge at the end of the carapace

**Loggerhead turtle**  
(*Caretta caretta*)



Almost circular carapace  
Dark grey to dark green  
Usually small size

**Olive-ridley turtle**  
(*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

2 pairs of prefrontal scales  
Overlapping scutes  
Bird-like beak

1 pair of prefrontal scales  
Non overlapping scutes  
Rounded head

**Hawksbill turtle**  
(*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

**Green turtle**  
(*Chelonia mydas*)