

Level 4

Threats to Sea Turtles

All seven species of the sea turtle are classified as either endangered or vulnerable. They face many threats, several of which are caused by human action.



One common threat is ghost nets. Ghost nets are fishing nets that have been left or lost by fishermen. When a turtle becomes tangled in one of these nets, they cannot swim to the surface. As a result, they drown.

Another threat sea turtles face comes from plastic bags that are floating in the ocean. Turtles often mistake these plastic bags for jellyfish and eat the plastic. Once eaten, the plastic bag can cause a blockage in their intestines. A blockage means that the sea turtle is no longer able to eat, causing it to starve. Eating plastic can also cause internal bleeding in sea turtles.

Water pollution poisons the turtles' habitat, killing animals and other marine life such as seagrass. This is a problem as seagrass is a vital food source for sea turtles. When there is not enough seagrass, turtles need to rely on other food sources. This can result in other problems, not only for sea turtles, but other marine life.

Sea turtles are also at risk of being injured or killed from boats. Turtles are difficult to spot for people driving boats and as a result there are sometimes collisions. While a turtle's shell is hard, it is no match for the metal propeller of a boat.

Task A: Comprehension

1. What is a ghost net?

2. List 2 foods sea turtles eat.

3. Why do sea turtles sometimes eat plastic bags?

4. Which word from the text means 'essential'?

5. What is something common between each of the dangers the author has listed?

6. What 'other problems' might the author be referring to in paragraph four?

7. Summarise this text in 20 words or fewer.

Task B: Language and Grammar

1. This text mentions a number of **cause and effect** relationships. Show 3 of them below.

Cause	→	Effect
Cause	→	Effect
Cause	→	Effect

2. A **possessive noun** is noun that possesses, owns, or has something. We show possession with an apostrophe.

the turtle's shell = the shell the turtle has

Add an **apostrophe before the s** to complete the following possessive nouns:

- a. The animals food (the food of the animals)
- b. The _____ net (the net of the fisherman)
- c. The _____ habitat (the habitat of the turtle)
- d. The _____ propeller (the propeller of the boat)
- e. The _____ actions (the action of the person)

Task C: Challenge

What are some actions you could take to help protect sea turtles?