



The Hawaiian Honu Activity Booklet for Kids.



According to Hawaiian legend, Kauila was a turtle with special power. She could turn herself into a young girl. The people loved Kauila because during the day, she took human form and watched over the children as they played along the shoreline of the bay.

Some Hawaiians regard the green sea turtle as an *'aumakua* (family guardian.) Honu was a protector, and the embodiment of their ancestors. Rock carvings of turtle images called petroglyphs can be found throughout Hawaii.



Junior Ranger Program
Explore, Learn, Protect

Honu. Green sea turtles are fully protected under both the Federal Endangered Species Act and under state law. These laws prohibit hunting, injuring or harassing sea turtles.

Traditionally, kapu were placed on taking honu to ensure their abundance. They were sometime kept in tide pools and saved for special occasions.

Do you think people should be allowed to take honu today?

Why or why not?

Who might want to hurt the turtle and why?

Observe a turtle on the beach.
What is the honu doing?



“Basking” is when the turtles come ashore to lay in the sun. The turtle is avoiding tiger sharks. Basking also helps increase their body temperature - sea turtles are cold-blooded. Only recently have these turtles felt safe enough to come ashore.

Why do you think this is?

What would you tell people who try to touch the turtles?

Nesting. Turtles travel back to the beach where they were born to mate and lay eggs. Some travel up to 800 miles from Hawai'i.



The female digs out a hole in the sand to lay her eggs, about 100 eggs at one time. She does this 1-3



At lower temperatures, the eggs will become males, and at higher temperatures, the eggs will become females.

What will happen if the temperature of the earth warms up?



List three dangers you think baby turtles might face on their way to the ocean.



Mysterious Tumors.

A disease called Fibropapiloma can cause the growth of large tumors on a turtle. The tumors often spread to other parts of the body, which can kill the turtle.



What do you think humans can do to help the turtles?



Fun Fact.

Sometimes turtles go to "cleaning stations" where fish will feed on the algae and clean the turtle's body!

Honu Helper

I pledge to help keep the Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle safe by keeping our beaches clean. I will tell others what I learned about these special animals, and that we should all malama them. I want them to be around for my kids to enjoy in the future.

(your name)