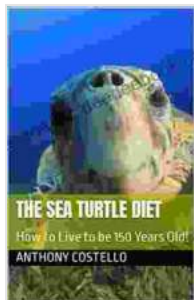


# The Complete Guide to the Sea Turtle Diet: What Do Sea Turtles Eat?



## The Sea Turtle Diet: How to Live to be 150 Years Old!

by Hye Seung Chung

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Word Wise : Enabled

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Sea turtles are fascinating creatures that have inhabited our oceans for millions of years. They are known for their long lifespans and their unique ability to travel long distances. But what do sea turtles eat? In this article, we will explore the diverse diet of sea turtles, from the tiny hatchlings to the massive adults.

## What Do Sea Turtles Eat?

The diet of sea turtles varies depending on their species and age. However, all sea turtles are carnivores, meaning that they eat meat. The main types of food that sea turtles eat include:

- Jellyfish
- Fish

- Crustaceans
- Mollusks
- Sea urchins
- Sea cucumbers

Sea turtles use their strong jaws and sharp teeth to crush the shells of their prey. They also have a large stomach that can hold a lot of food. Sea turtles can eat up to 10% of their body weight in food each day.

### **How Do Sea Turtles Find Food?**

Sea turtles use their keen eyesight and sense of smell to find food. They can see prey from a distance and can even detect the scent of food in the water. Sea turtles also use their flippers to dig in the sand for buried prey.

### **What Do Baby Sea Turtles Eat?**

Baby sea turtles, or hatchlings, eat a different diet than adult sea turtles. Hatchlings mainly eat small fish, crustaceans, and mollusks. As they grow older, they gradually start to eat more jellyfish and other larger prey.

### **What Do Adult Sea Turtles Eat?**

Adult sea turtles eat a wide variety of food, including jellyfish, fish, crustaceans, mollusks, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers. The diet of adult sea turtles varies depending on their species and the availability of food in their environment.

### **What Do Sea Turtles Not Eat?**

Sea turtles do not eat plants. They are carnivores and only eat meat. Some sea turtles may accidentally eat small amounts of seaweed or other plant material, but this is not a major part of their diet.

## **The Importance of the Sea Turtle Diet**

The sea turtle diet is important for the survival of sea turtles. Sea turtles rely on their diet to get the nutrients they need to grow and reproduce. The diet of sea turtles also helps to keep the ocean ecosystem in balance. Sea turtles eat jellyfish, which can help to control jellyfish populations. Jellyfish can damage coral reefs and other important marine habitats.

## **Threats to the Sea Turtle Diet**

The sea turtle diet is threatened by a number of human activities. These threats include:

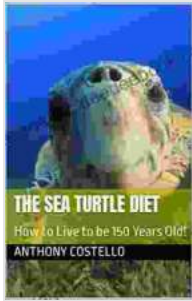
- Overfishing
- Pollution
- Climate change

Overfishing can reduce the amount of food available to sea turtles.

Pollution can contaminate the food that sea turtles eat. Climate change can alter the distribution of sea turtles and their prey.

The sea turtle diet is a complex and important part of the ocean ecosystem. Sea turtles rely on their diet to get the nutrients they need to grow and reproduce. The diet of sea turtles also helps to keep the ocean ecosystem in balance. However, the sea turtle diet is threatened by a number of

human activities. It is important to protect sea turtles and their diet so that they can continue to thrive in our oceans.

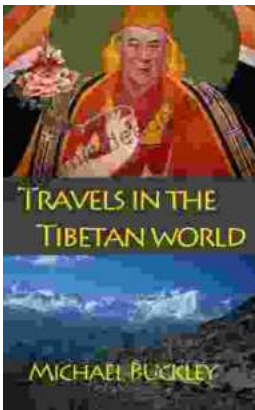


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