

Only one turtle out of 1000 eggs laid survives to adult age

People often think that turtle eggs are healthy but the very opposite is true. The sea water in which turtles live is extremely polluted and turtles' bodies absorb these pollutants which are then transferred into their eggs. This fact has been confirmed by many cases of diarrhoea, vomiting and even spontaneous abortion or death after having eaten turtle eggs.

Don't eat turtle eggs

It is not only the local people who eat turtle eggs. They collect the eggs and sell them in markets where tourists can buy them too. Resist and if you are offered turtle meat or turtle eggs don't eat them – it will be better for your health and for turtles as well. If people keep collecting eggs from nests at one place the turtle population will decline until it disappears completely.

Turtles are protected

There are seven species of sea turtles in the world. All the species are protected by law because their population has decreased rapidly and they are endangered. This is not only because of their natural predators (monitor lizards, crabs, birds, ..) but also because of people who collect eggs from their nests.

Protection is not difficult, give your hand too!

Not much is needed to protect turtles – we need to protect their eggs from people and predators. They can be put into a nest in a fenced part of the beach. It is necessary to let them go to the sea immediately after hatching. If you see turtles being kept in pools ask the responsible person to set them free. Pools do turtles harm, their natural environment is the sea and it is best for them. They learn where to swim and what to eat there – something they cannot do when kept in pools.

Do not pollute the sea

Even if baby turtles hatch and get to the sea safely they are under many threats – they might get entangled in a fishing net which prevents them from going to the surface and they might die. Another threat is rubbish – turtles often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, these then congest their intestine. Prevent people from throwing rubbish into the sea.

Don't buy bangles and other products made from turtle shell. You will help a lot if you tell other people what to do and how to protect turtles. You can learn more on

www.saveturtle.net

www.morskezelvy.cz



Sea turtles have been living in the ocean for more than 100 million years, let them live! 1



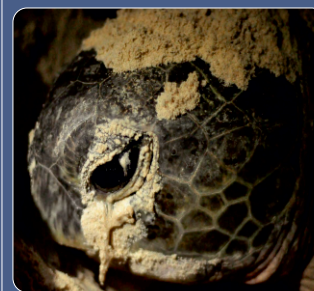
Sea turtles' mating 2



Green sea turtle female is looking for a place where to lay her eggs. 3



Digging a hole to lay her eggs (turtles lay their eggs at the same place where they were born) 4



Laying eggs is very tiring – there might be more than a hundred of them. 5



The eggs are the size of a ping-pong ball – they have to be safe from the high tide and predator. 6



Pack of the sea turtle eggs 7



Protecting sea turtles is not difficult. 8



A big problem is that people keep harvesting, selling and eating eggs despite the fact it is forbidden. 9



Selling turtle eggs in a market – do not eat turtle eggs! 10



Green sea baby turtles are hatching after two months. 11



Fencing a turtle nest protects the pack from people and predators. 12



Conservationists helping the pack to get out of the nest 13



The instinct to go straight to the sea and swim from the shore is the strongest and baby turtles have it in the first two days after hatching only. 14



Common mistake of conservationists – they put baby turtles into pools which does them harm. 15



Turtles lose their instinct where to swim, where to go back to lay their eggs, how to get food and their muscles weaken. 16



The water in the pools is often dirty and turtles might get injured. 17



If you see turtles kept in pools ask to set them free. 18



It seems there is enough turtles but only one out of one thousand lives until adulthood. 19



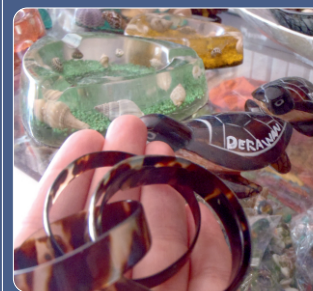
Baby turtles are often eaten by crabs 20



On their way to the sea, turtles are threatened by birds. In the sea, fish eat them. 21



Turtles get entangled into fishermen's nets and die if they cannot take a breath. 22



Do not buy bangles or any other product made out of turtle shell 23



This turtle died because of the dynamite fishing. 24



Spreading information about the turtles situation might save them. 25



The biggest turtle, the leatherback turtle 26



Leatherback turtles eat jellyfish which they often mistake for a plastic bag – do not dump rubbish! 27



Green sea turtles are beautiful and graceful in the sea. 28



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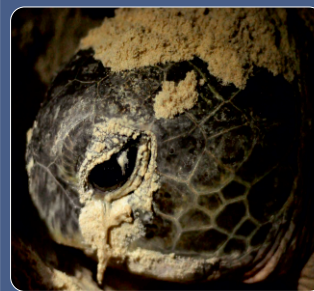
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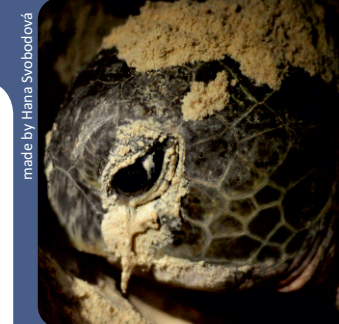


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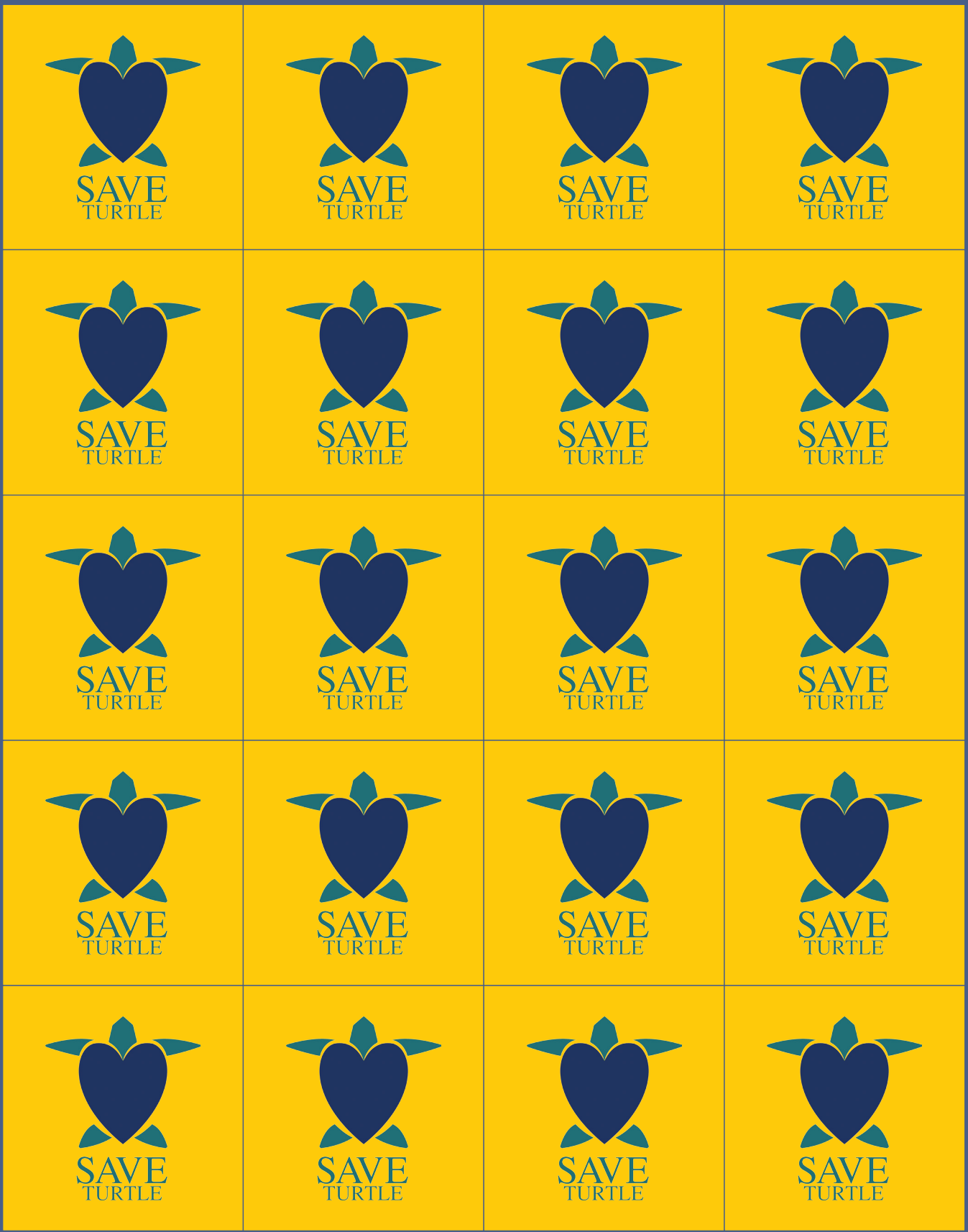
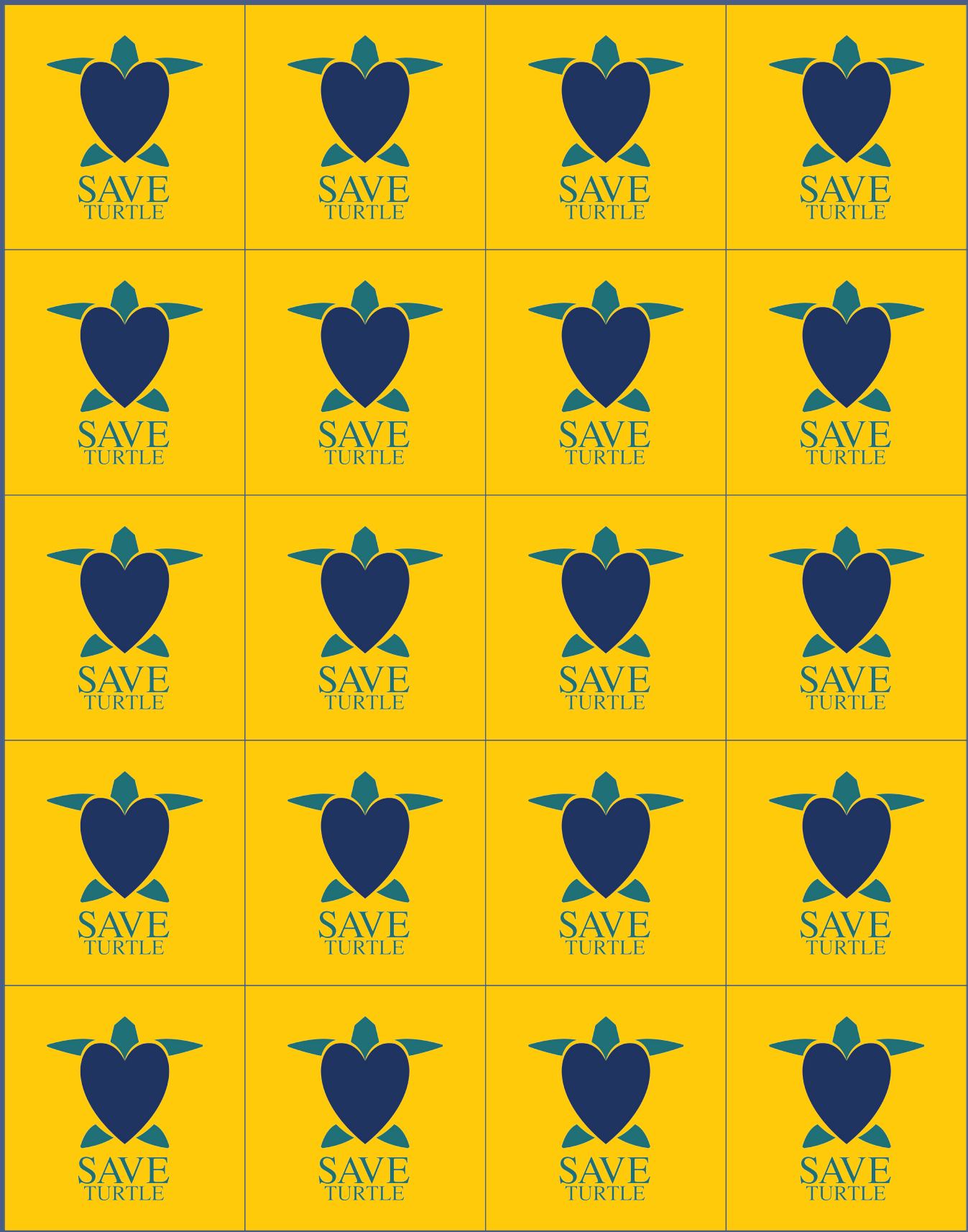
Sea turtles are critically endangered. Help protect them!

How to play the game:

Before the first game cut the paper into cards. Take a careful look at the cards and read the descriptions. Shuffle the cards and put them on an even surface with the pictures face down. Try to put them down nicely so that they do not cover each other. Two or more players can play the game. The aim of the game is to gain as many pairs as possible. Players take turns in the clockwise direction. The first player turns two cards of his choice and looks at them. If they are the same then he takes them and turns two other cards. A player can go on turning the cards as long as he keeps finding pairs. If there are different pictures on the cards the player puts them back face down and another player continues. The game ends when there are no cards left. Players then count how many pairs they have found and the player with the highest number wins.



made by Hana Svobodová



Turtles in dire straits

Pairs card game



www.morskezelvy.cz

