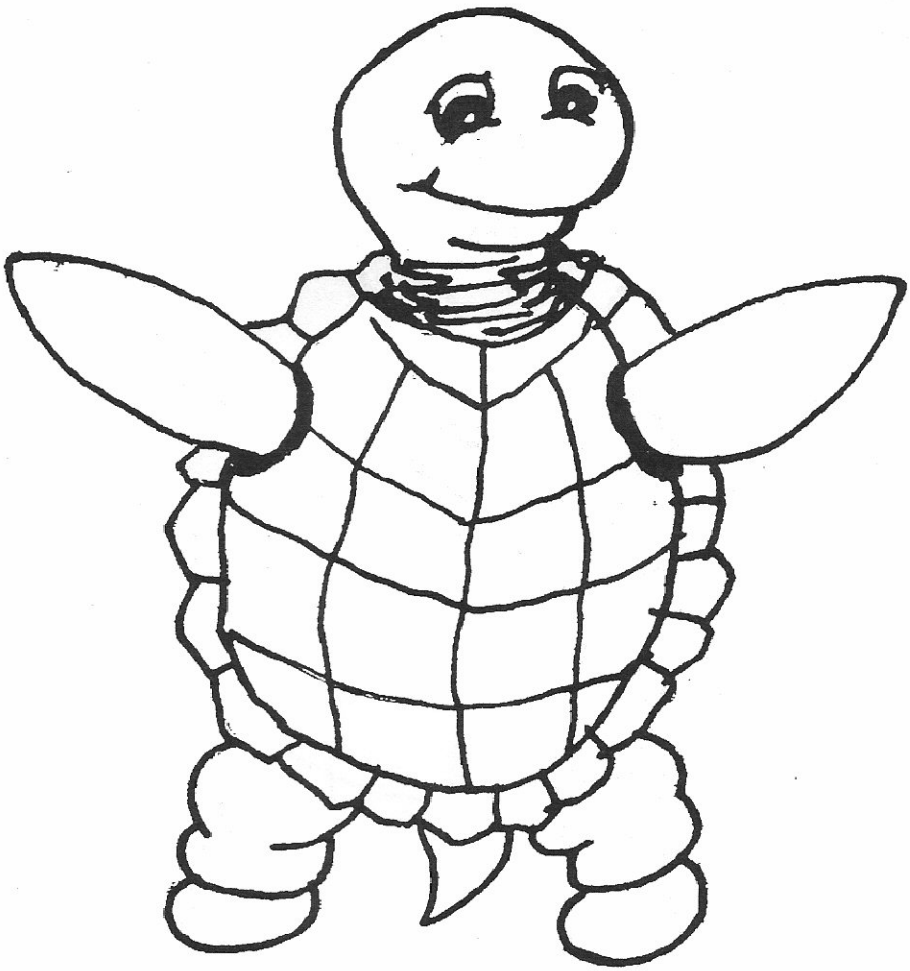
Help Me Find My Way



Please Help South Walton Sea Turtle Watch
Save Florida's endangered sea turtles

"This book is dedicated to my daughter, Taryn, who inspires my learning all the time, to her dad, Bobby, whose artistic talents made this coloring book possible and to the beautiful sea turtles. Please help in our efforts to make a difference. I believe we can."

Suzanne

Written by Suzanne Holland,
Illustrated by Bobby Hill and Directed by Taryn Holland Hill

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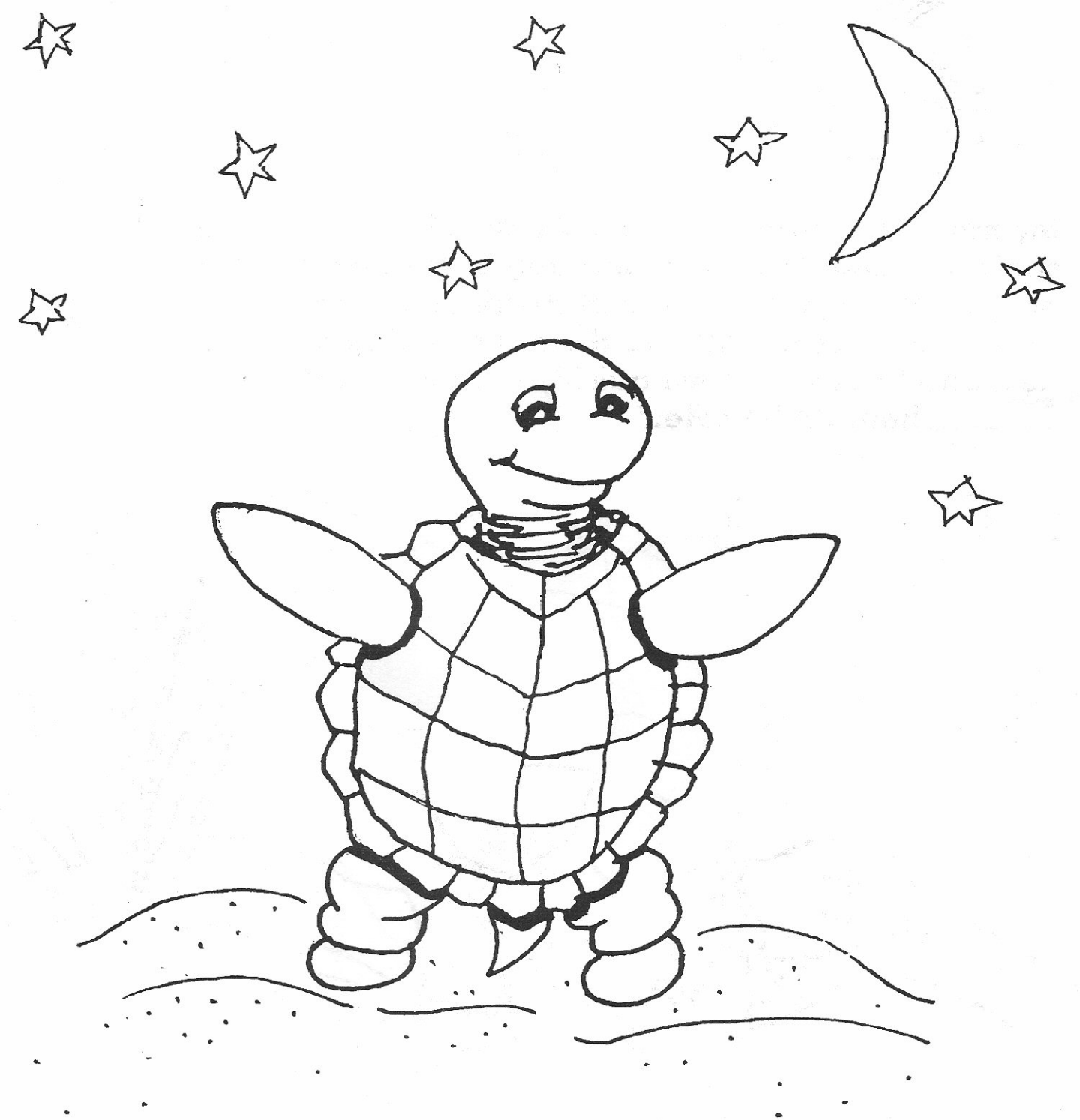
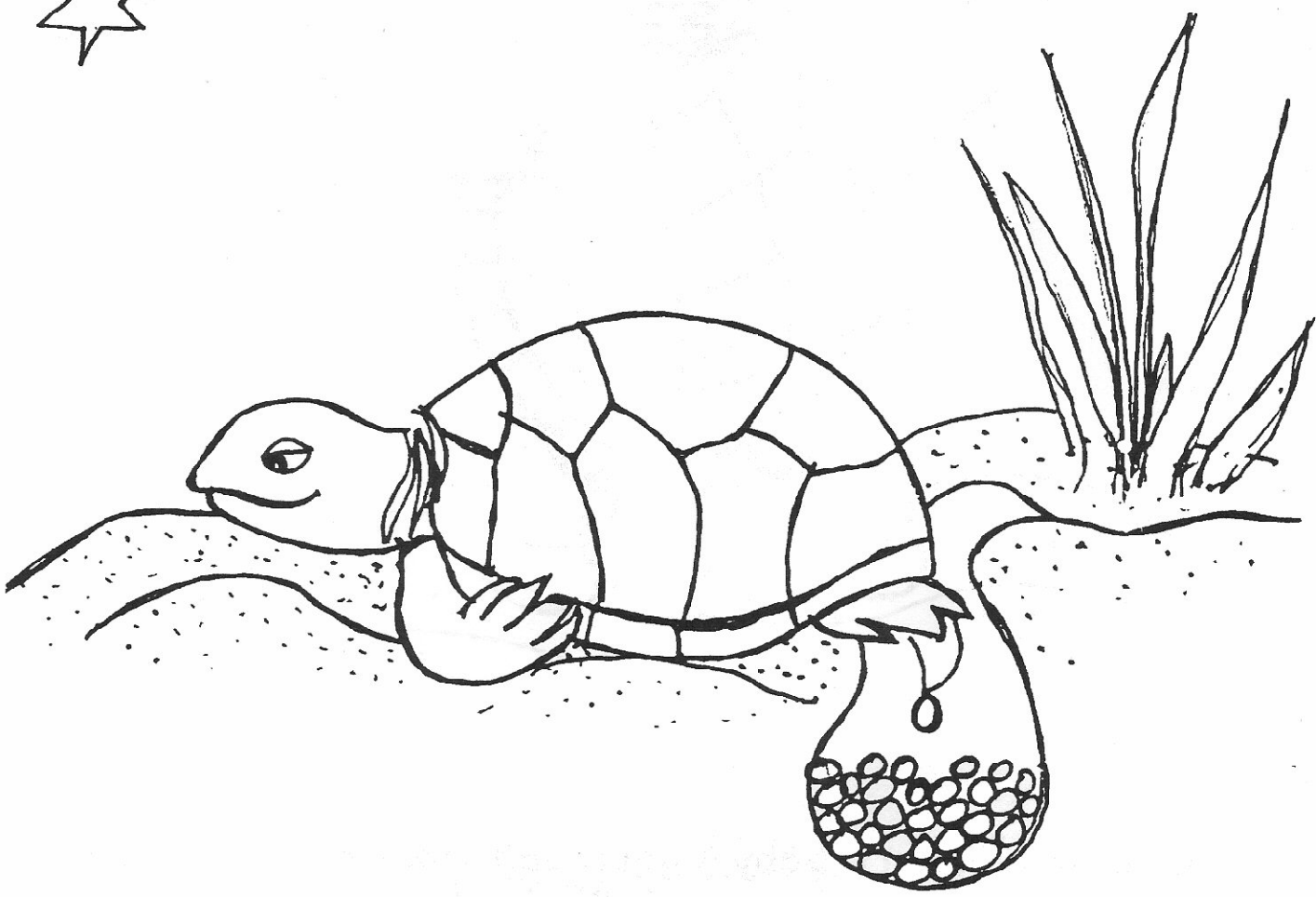
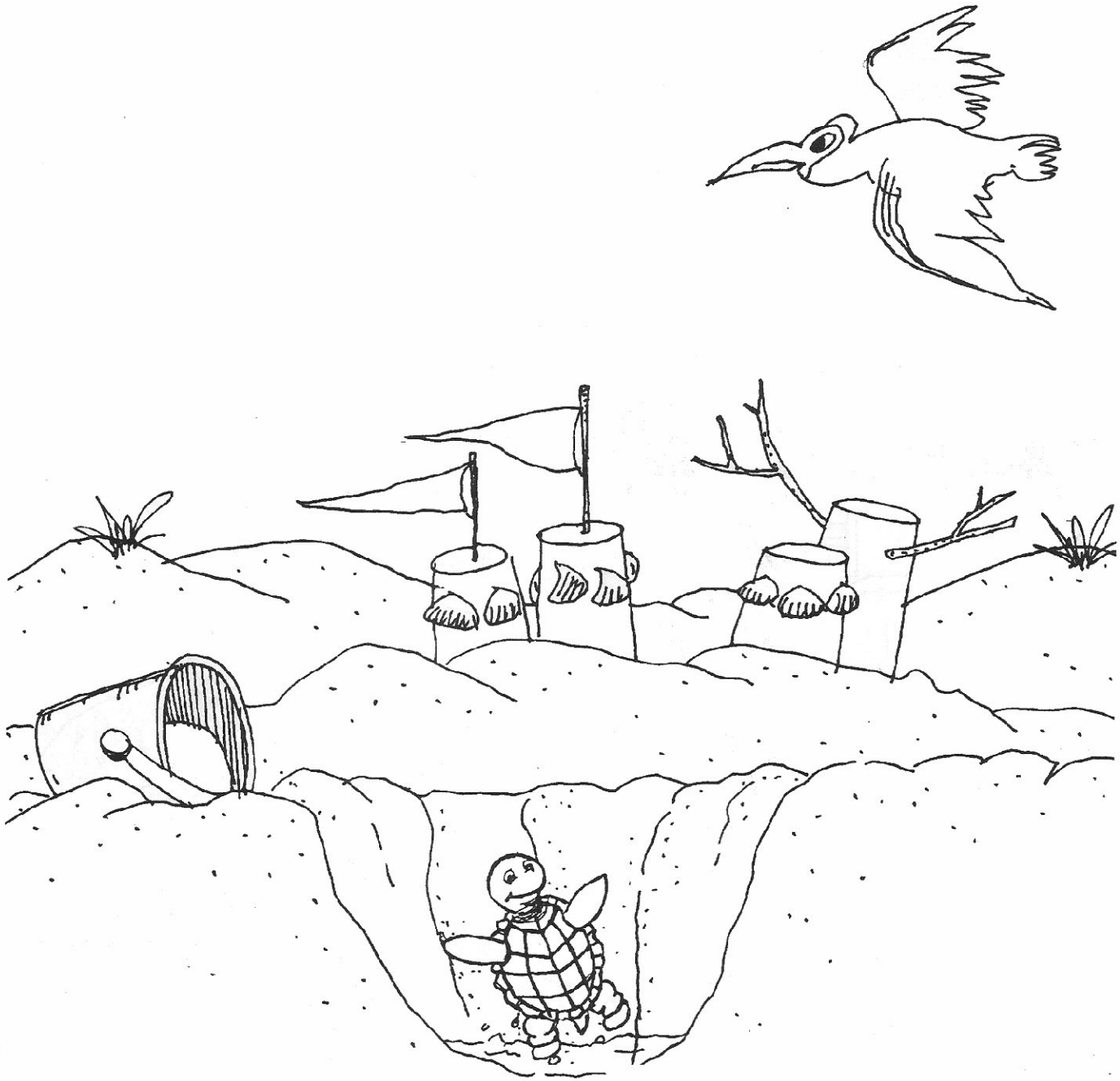


Hi, I'm Tessie. I'm a baby loggerhead sea turtle. I was just born today on this Florida beach.

My mom was born here, too. About 50 to 60 days ago she came onto the shore and dug a deep nest and laid about 100 eggs. I was one of them! Then she swam back to the ocean. "It's hard work climbing out of the nest and I have to move quickly to find my way to the ocean where I'll be safe."

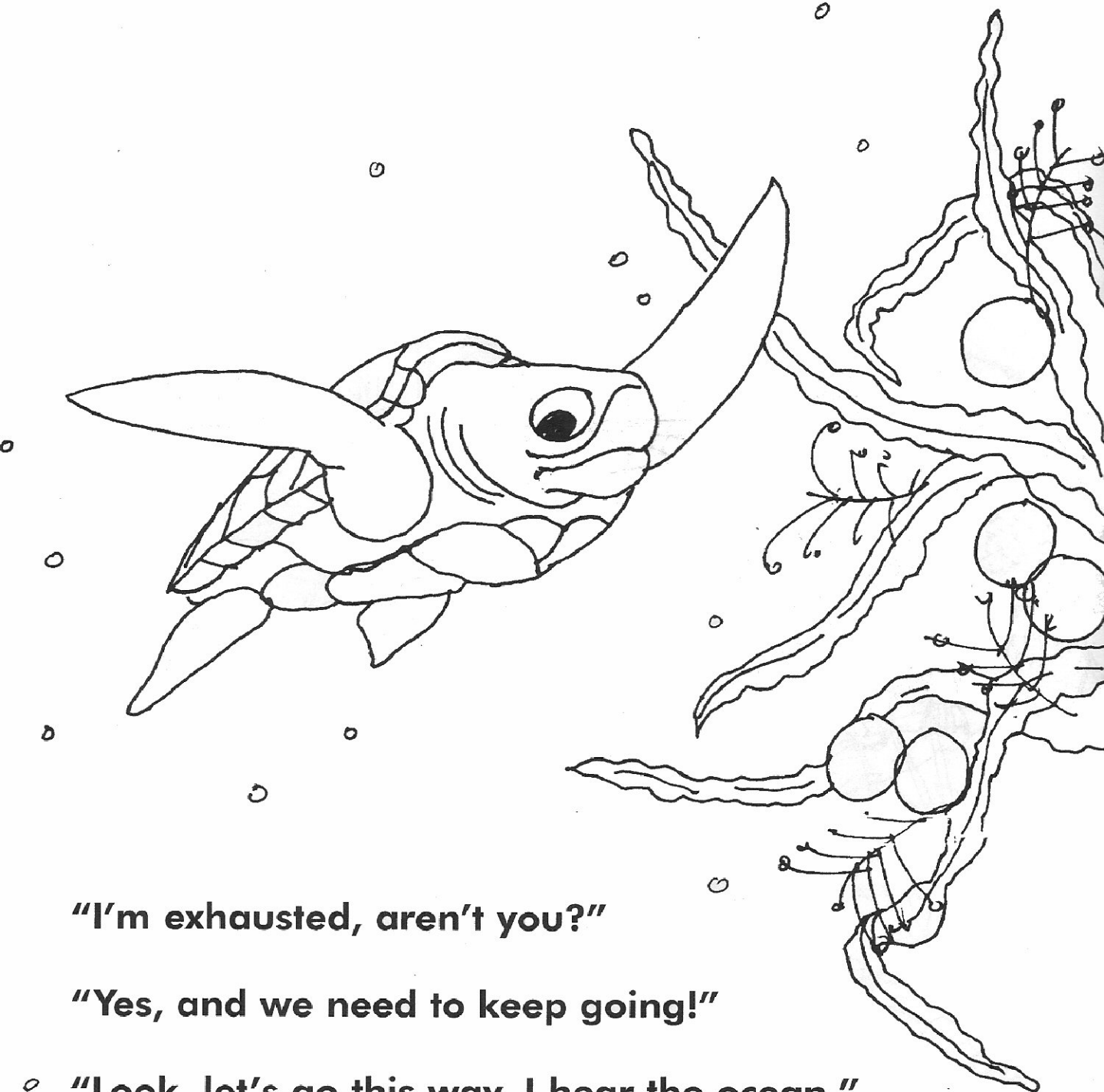




My instincts will guide me and I'm attracted to light. So here I go! Hey, what's this? I can't get out someone has dug a hole! Now which way? I wasn't expecting that. I hope no one else falls in or gets blocked!

I see light. That must be the moon reflecting on the water. Oh no, I'm confused. This isn't the way, someone left a light on in their home. I better watch out for my predators. I'll hide here since I can't hide in my shell.

I have this sick sense something is not right. I am feeling tired and afraid. Maybe I need to go another way. "Tessie, help! I can't move. I'm caught on something." I wish our human friends realized how their actions harm us.
"Oh Tammy, are you ok?"
"Now, I am. Good thing you came along. Thanks, Sis."



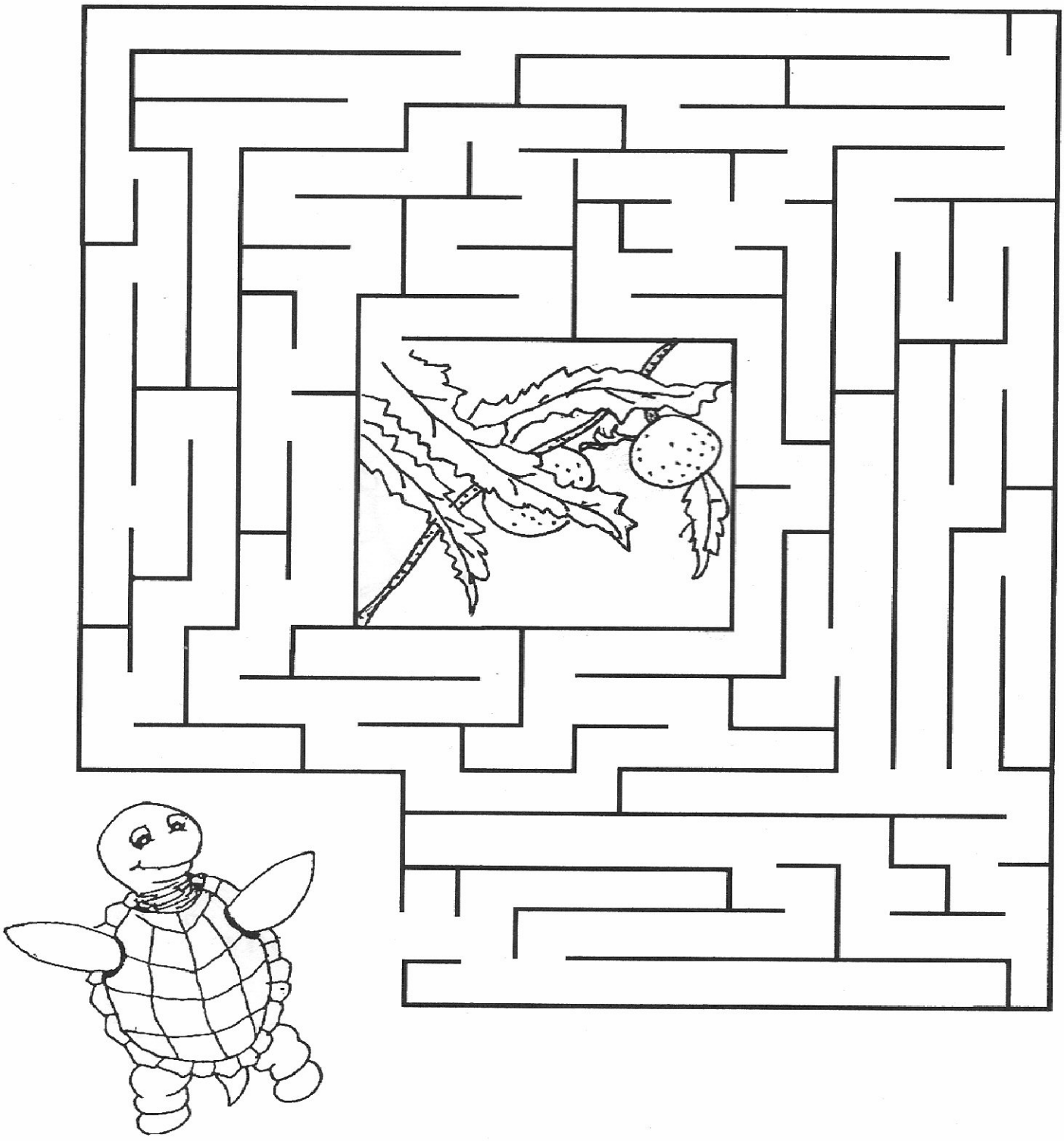
"I'm exhausted, aren't you?"

"Yes, and we need to keep going!"

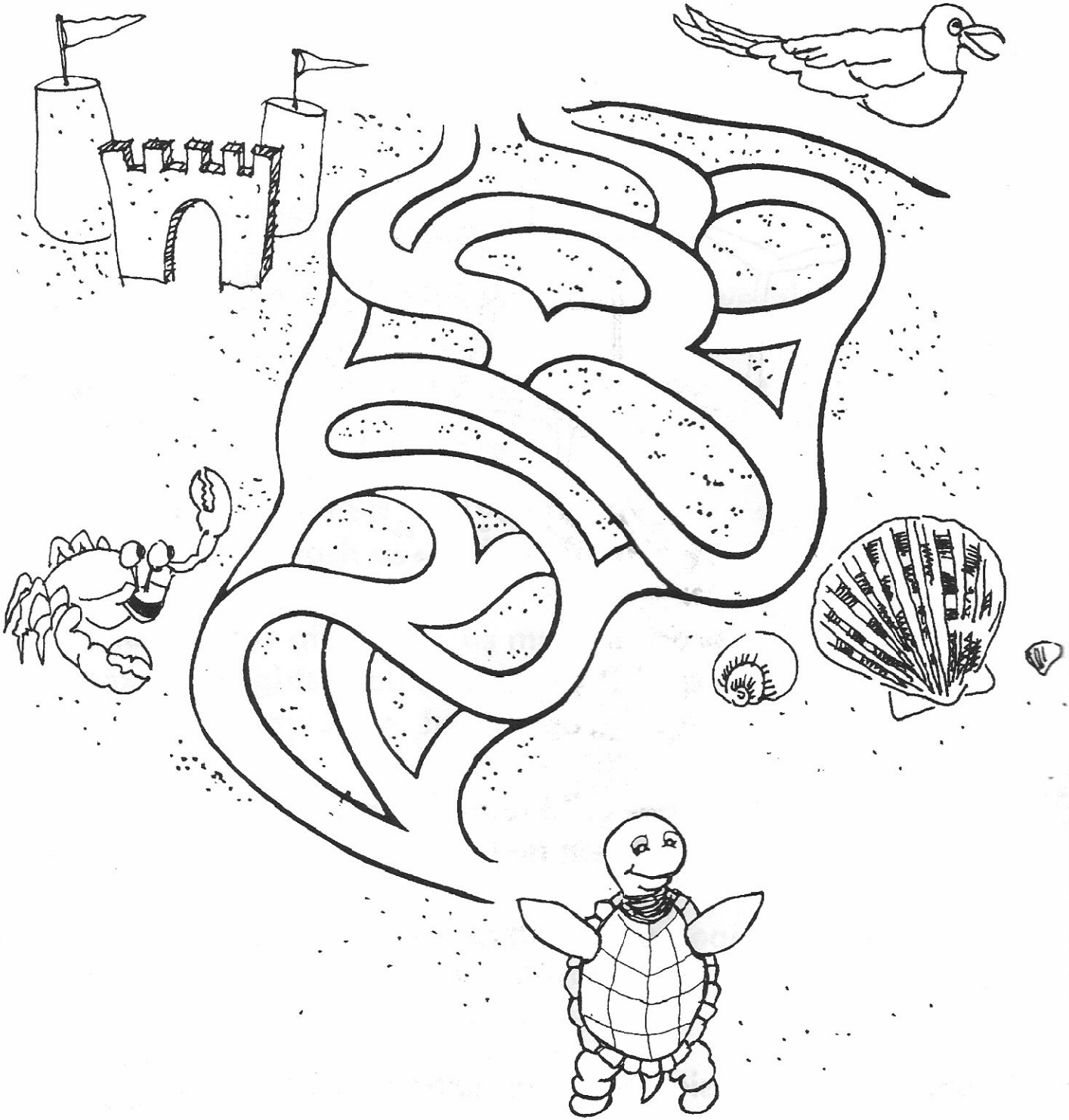
"Look, let's go this way. I hear the ocean."

"We made it to the ocean. Now we must swim as fast as we can to the seaweed beds and then we can rest and eat."

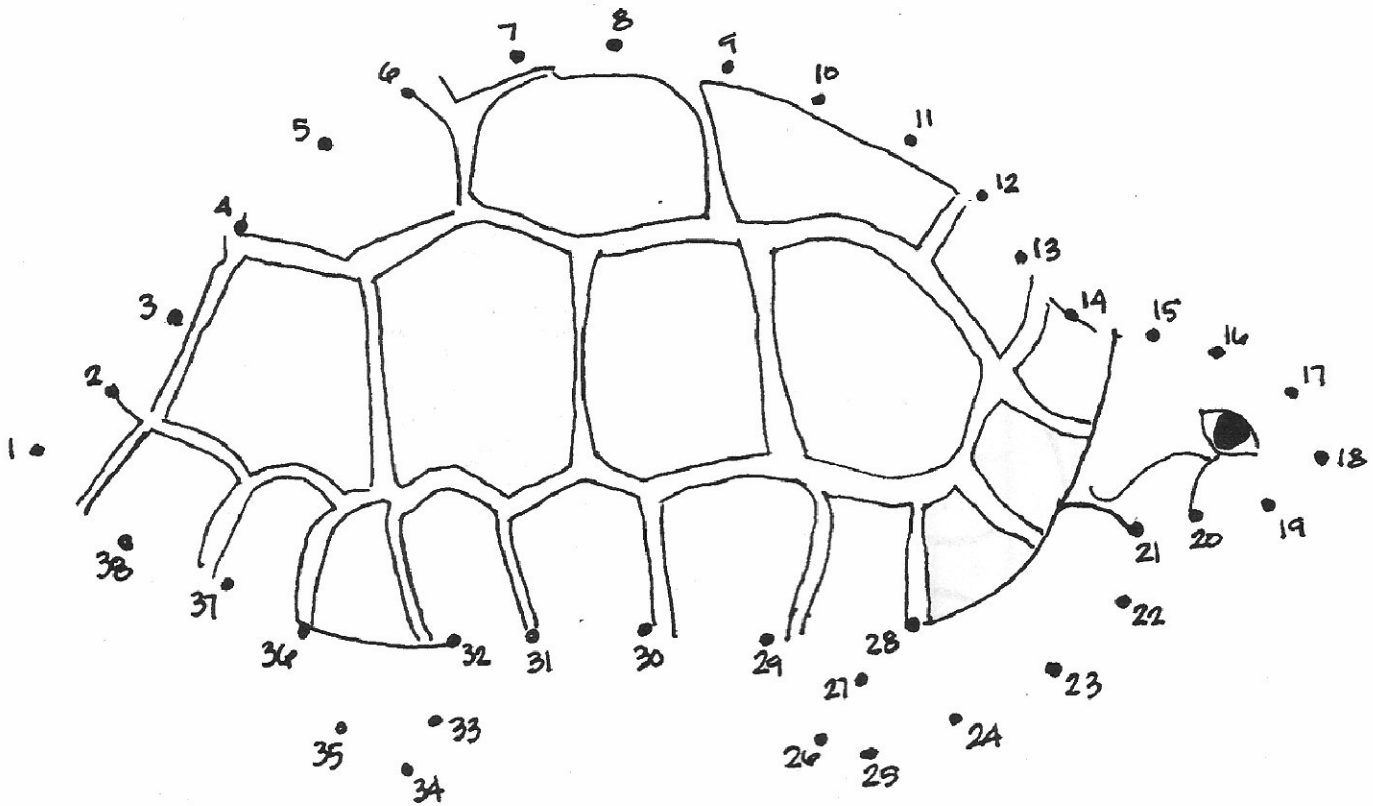
"Tessie, this is such a long journey and I'm glad we're together. I sure hope all our brothers and sisters make it. Look there is Aunt May and June, Uncle July and August and our cousin September. We're home, Sis!"



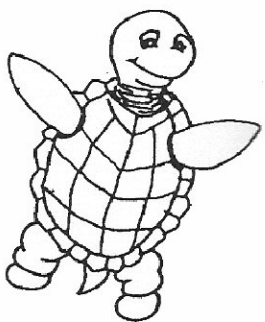
Tessie and Tammie need your help!



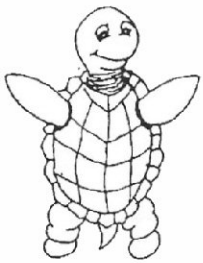
Help me find the ocean!



Thanks, it's me Tessie! Please remember to help all the sea turtles. We can't survive unless our human friends take action by doing the things listed on the next page.
"You Can Help!"



You Can Help



Never leave beach chairs out overnight.

Knock down your sand castle when you are ready to leave the beach, refill all holes and flatten out the sand smooth.

Bring a trash bag with you to the beach each day and pick up trash as you walk to find your treasures.

Keep lights off or low, as much as possible at night. All exterior lights should be off by 8:00 p.m. thru hatching season. (May, June, July, August, September & October)

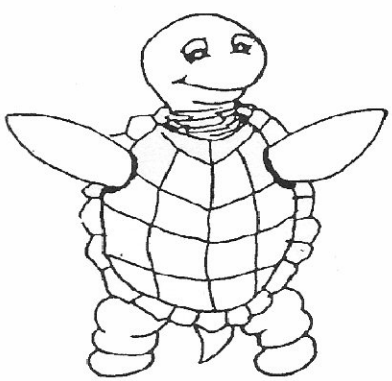
Share what you know about the sea turtles with others you meet on the beach.

If you see a nesting sea turtle on the beach stay clear and do not shine lights or take pictures. Call South Walton Sea Turtle Watch @
(850) 897-5228

You may also visit us @ www.seaturtlewatch.org
or www.beachtobay.org

It's your turn to draw!

THANKS

Fun Sea Turtles Facts

- The Loggerhead and the Green Sea Turtle nest in Florida.
- The Loggerhead is most common in Florida and named for its large head.
- The Green Sea Turtle is named for the color of its body fat and is strictly vegetarian.
- 80% of the Loggerhead Turtles are born on these Florida beaches.
- Sea Turtles live their entire lives in the ocean except when females come ashore to lay eggs.
- The average life span is 60 years old.
- It can take up to 30 years before a Sea Turtle is capable of having babies.
- Less than 1 of 10,000 hatchlings survive to adulthood.
- Hatchlings weigh less than 1 oz. and are only 2 inches long.
- Adults can be over 3 feet long and weigh 200 to 400 lbs.
- Females will only nest every 2 or 3 years. She will never return to the nest.
- The main danger for the hatchlings is artificial light, obstructions on the beach and trash.
- Centuries ago Sea Turtles roamed the oceans, ***today they face extinction!***