

Name _____

The Role of Sea Turtles in the Ecosystem

Short Answer Key

1. Green sea turtles graze on seagrass, keeping it short and healthy, which benefits other marine animals.
2. Hawksbill sea turtles eat sponges that grow on coral, preventing the sponges from overtaking and harming the coral reef.
3. If leatherback sea turtles disappeared, jellyfish populations could grow too large, disrupting the food chain and harming fish populations.
4. Sea turtles contribute to beach ecosystems by leaving unhatched eggs and eggshells, which provide nutrients for plants and animals.
5. One threat sea turtles face is pollution, such as plastic waste. Leatherback turtles may mistake plastic bags for jellyfish and accidentally eat them, which can harm or kill them.

