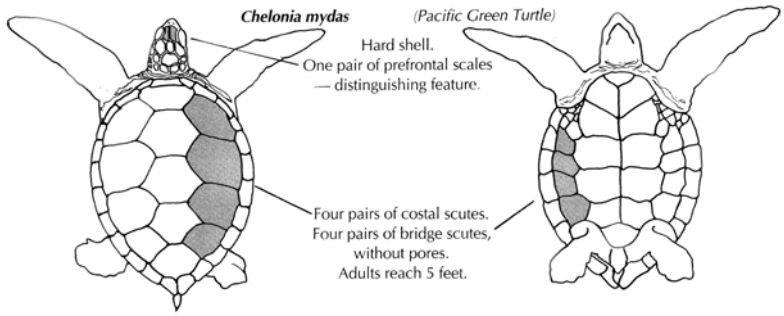
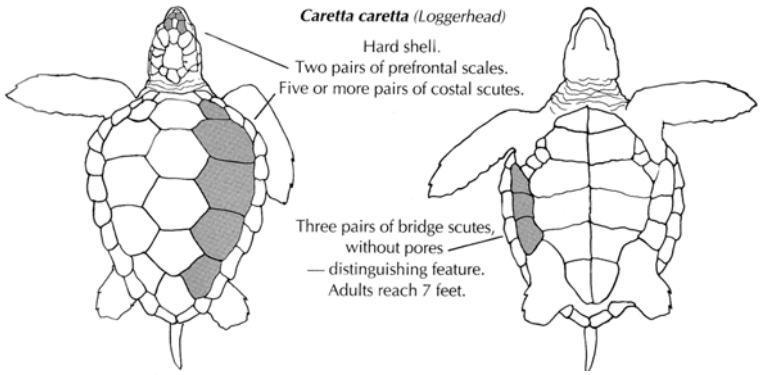
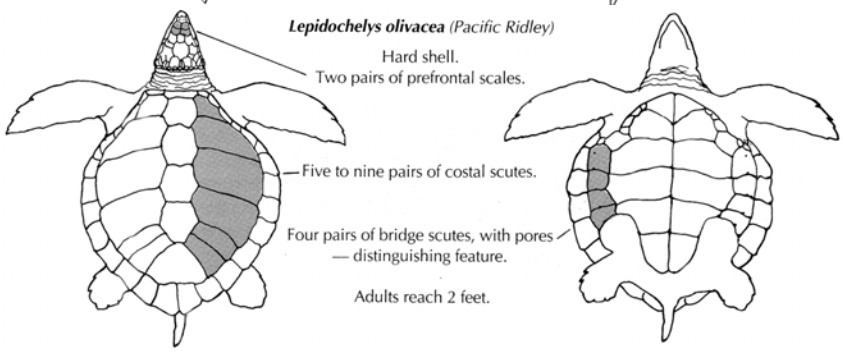
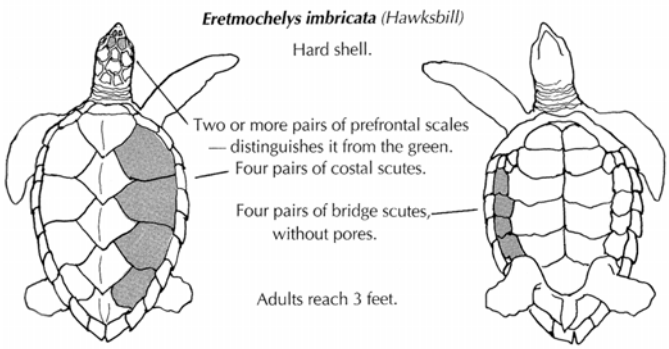
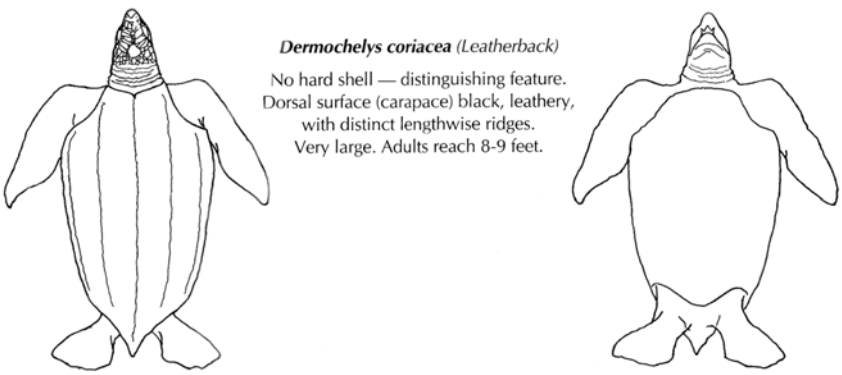

Chelonia mydas (Pacific Green Turtle)
Hard shell.
One pair of prefrontal scales
— distinguishing feature.
Four pairs of costal scutes.
Four pairs of bridge scutes,
without pores.
Adults reach 5 feet.


Caretta caretta (Loggerhead)
Hard shell.
Two pairs of prefrontal scales.
Five or more pairs of costal scutes.
Three pairs of bridge scutes,
without pores
— distinguishing feature.
Adults reach 7 feet.


Lepidochelys olivacea (Pacific Ridley)
Hard shell.
Two pairs of prefrontal scales.
Five to nine pairs of costal scutes.
Four pairs of bridge scutes, with pores
— distinguishing feature.
Adults reach 2 feet.


Eretmochelys imbricata (Hawksbill)
Hard shell.
Two or more pairs of prefrontal scales
— distinguishes it from the green.
Four pairs of costal scutes.
Four pairs of bridge scutes,
without pores.
Adults reach 3 feet.


Dermochelys coriacea (Leatherback)
No hard shell — distinguishing feature.
Dorsal surface (carapace) black, leathery,
with distinct lengthwise ridges.
Very large. Adults reach 8-9 feet.