The Sky Turtle

Flight

The sky turtle is well-adapted to its environment and can breathe, and fly, at very high altitudes. Turtles use strong muscles, located in their chest, to 'flap' their flippers and give them the thrust to move through the air. Their lightweight shells and hollow bones make it easier for them to take flight and stay airborne, whilst their streamlined design makes them the perfect shape to move through the air with ease. Incredibly, the turtle can remain in the air for lengthy periods of time (several hours) though they tend to only do this while migrating and must ingest 3-4kg of insects as they fly. Without eating as they fly, the sky turtles would need to keep stopping to find food on the land.

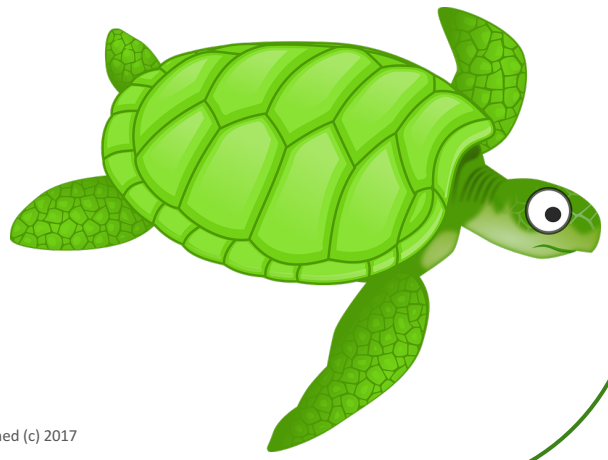
Sleep

Whilst in flight, it is essential that sky turtles take it in turns to form small groups (around 3 to 4 animals) and allow the weakest in the group to take short sleep breaks on their backs. They do this to keep going over longer distances. At night, they often roost in trees and often use the abandoned nests of dragons to stay safe.

Predators

Unfortunately, sky turtles form part of the diet of air orcas, and their shells, despite being strong, are no match for the teeth of an adult shark.

Did you know...
A sky turtle can reverse in the air by altering the direction that their flippers flap.



Once in a Lifetime

	True	False
Sky turtles have lightweight shells and hollow bones.		
Sky turtles take short naps in the sky.		
Sky turtles eat air orcas.		
Sky turtles can fly backwards.		

Q1 How are sky turtles' bodies well adapted to flying in the air? Find 3 things.

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Q2 What two things do sky turtles need to do when they are in the air so that they don't need to keep stopping and can fly over longer distances?

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Find a word that means the same as force.	Find a word that means the opposite of solid.
Find a word that means the same as stay.	Find a word that means the opposite of strongest.