



# NEWS DETECTIVES

## TODAY'S NEWS STORY

### Turtley awesome! Scientists save a species

#### KEYWORDS

- ☐ **Extinct:**  
No longer existing
- ☐ **Conservation:**  
Protecting plants and animals
- ☐ **Hatchlings:**  
Babies that have come out of their eggs
- ☐ **Marine park:**  
A protected area of ocean



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#### BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The *Caretta caretta* sea turtle is one of the oldest existing species, dating back 100 million years! Until recently they were endangered. But now scientists have succeeded in saving them. They are now calling for more protections for turtles in the future.

Ever feel like you're getting old? Well, the *Caretta caretta* loggerhead sea turtle has been around for 100 million years — and scientists want to make sure that it is here to stay!

#### A sturtle-ing resurgence

For a long time, scientists were worried that this incredible species might become **extinct** as its numbers fell.

But after 25 years of **conservation** efforts, the Greek island of Zakynthos

is now home to a record number of *Caretta caretta* **hatchlings**!

#### Save the turtles!

This success story is the result of joint efforts by Greek leaders and conservationists.

The Greek government has created a **marine park** on Zakynthos to protect the turtles. Campaigners have also raised awareness of the dangers that tourism creates for turtles.

Now, there are over 10,000 new turtle nests per

year in Greece!

#### Aquatic ambitions

Campaigning organisations such as the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (Medasset) are expanding their ambitions. They are working to protect turtles in other countries such as Turkey, Syria and Lebanon.

But they also warn that tourism is still a danger. "The threats are still very much there, and it could all so easily unravel," said Nadia Andreanidou of Medasset.





# INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

IS HOPE ALL WE NEED?

## 1 TAKE ACTION

Want to do your bit to save the turtles? Why not try reducing your plastic use? Turtles are sometimes harmed by accidentally eating plastic that gets into the sea. Try using a reusable bottle instead of single-use plastic ones, and remind your parents to bring reusable bags when they go shopping!

**WHAT**  
is the main threat to the turtles?

**WHO**  
worked together to save the turtles?

**WHERE**  
is there now a record number of hatchlings?

**WHEN**  
did Caretta caretta turtles come into existence?

**WHY**  
did scientists think the Caretta caretta might become extinct?

**HOW**  
long have conservation efforts been going on?



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## 2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What have you found out in your investigation? Write, present or even record a piece that tells others about how you reduced your plastic use. Share what you've learned with your family and friends. What do they think? We want to hear your ideas too! Your teacher can share your reports with us too by sending them to [editorial@theday.co.uk](mailto:editorial@theday.co.uk).

## 3 Build THE Change



### CREATE YOUR DESIGN

The Greek government built a marine park to protect the turtles. What would your perfect marine park look like?

#### STEP 1:

Think about your design!  
How could the marine park protect the turtles from tourism? And how could it make sure that the turtles are happy in their new home?

#### STEP 2: Build the change!

Draw your perfect marine park. If you have time, why not make it out of LEGO® bricks or other bits of recycling?

**Share your genius**  
Show your work to your class!



Upload a photo of your work to the **Build the Change** gallery by scanning the QR code and have your work displayed to inspire real-world change.

## 4

### BUILDER OF THE WEEK

Every week we handpick one of the most inspirational designs from our online photo gallery to be our **BUILDER OF THE WEEK**. To get your creation featured here, ask your grown-up to take a photograph and upload it to our Build the Change gallery, using the QR code on this page.



This week we have a lovely island for many generations of a family to live on.

**"GREAT WORK!"**



This worksheet is available every weekday at 6:30am London time from <https://theday.co.uk/resources/news-detectives>.  
For any feedback or help please contact [buildthechange@theday.co.uk](mailto:buildthechange@theday.co.uk). Thank you.

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