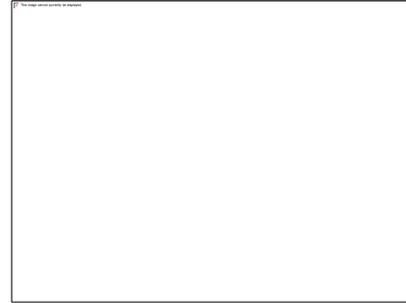
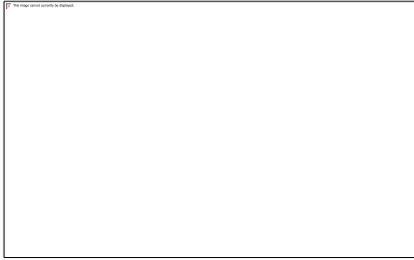


Georgia's Atlantic Ocean Habitat



How would you describe the Atlantic Ocean habitat?

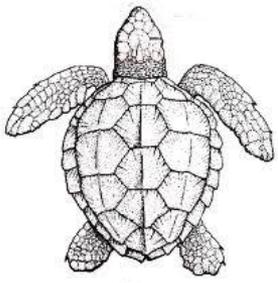


The Atlantic Ocean touches the **southeast corner** of Georgia. The ocean is the home of the Right Whale during its mating season. Loggerhead Sea Turtles come ashore on the barrier islands to lay their eggs. **Gray's Reef** is a national marine sanctuary located off the coast of Savannah. The Atlantic Ocean region is rich with wildlife diversity, as it is known as the "**armpit of the east coast**," meaning that Georgia's shoreline is the innermost pocket of water between Maine and Florida. Many different plants and animals funnel into the part of the ocean along the Georgia coast. Some animals in this region include shrimp, crabs, oysters, **right whales**, dolphins, **loggerhead sea turtles**, fish, and manatees. Some plants in this region include **seaweed**, **pennyworts**, **algae**, seagrass, sea oats (along coast), and morning glories (along coast).

Why would the Atlantic Ocean habitat be best suited for this animal?



Right Whale – The right whale is a **mammal** that lives in **saltwater** oceans. It can get as large as 18m (**60ft**) in length. It feeds on **krill**, zooplankton, small crustaceans, and other ocean creatures that can filter into its mouth.



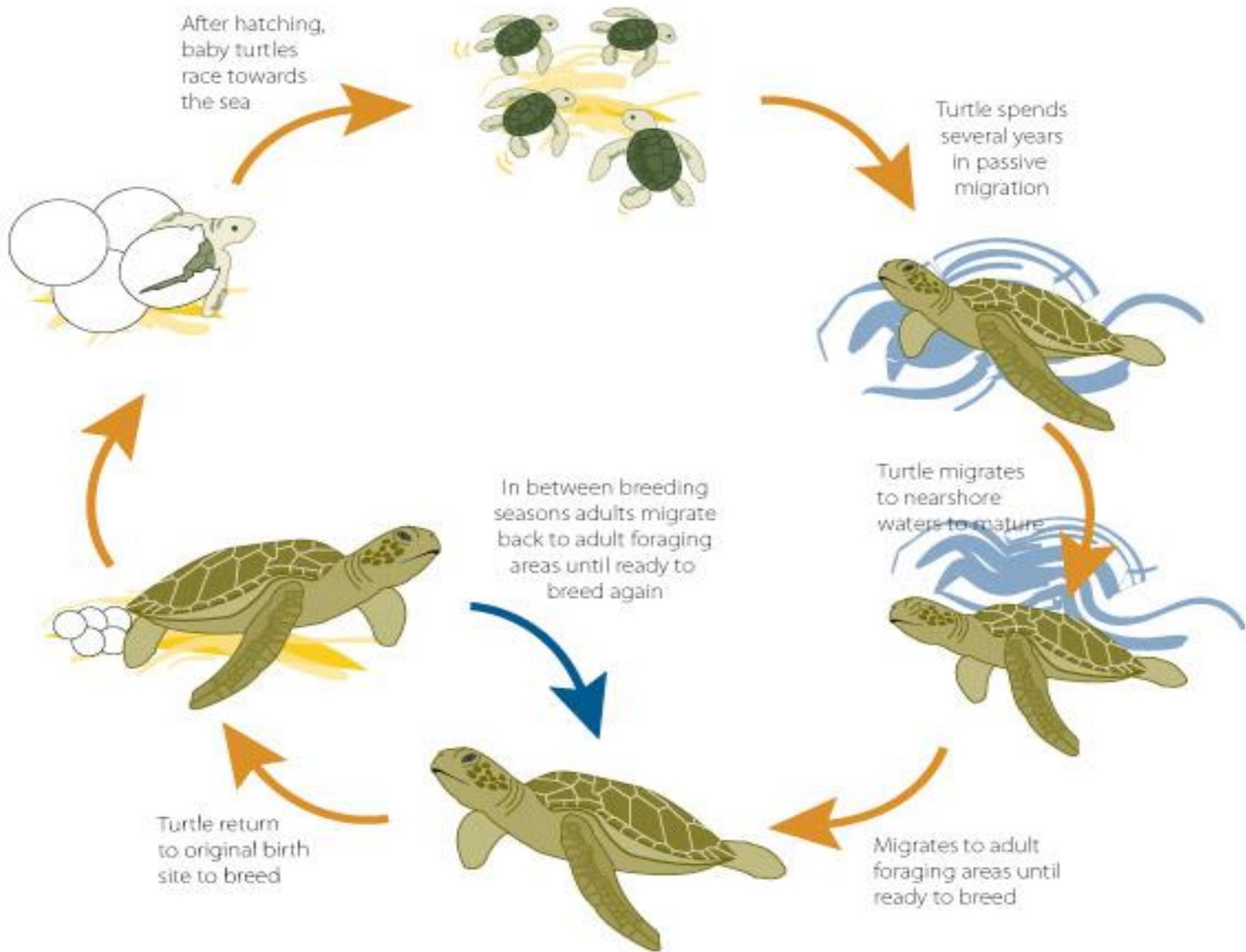
Why would the Atlantic Ocean habitat be best suited for this animal?

Loggerhead Sea Turtles - Loggerheads nest regularly on Georgia's islands such as **Jekyll**, Sea, Sapelo, Ossabaw and other barrier islands. Like all sea turtles, the loggerhead is completely **adapted** to life in the **ocean** and **depends on land** only for **reproduction**. Only the female returns to the beach. When female turtles reach maturity (15-30 years), they leave the water and dig a nest in the sand on the beach, deposit the **eggs**, cover the nest, then return to the water.

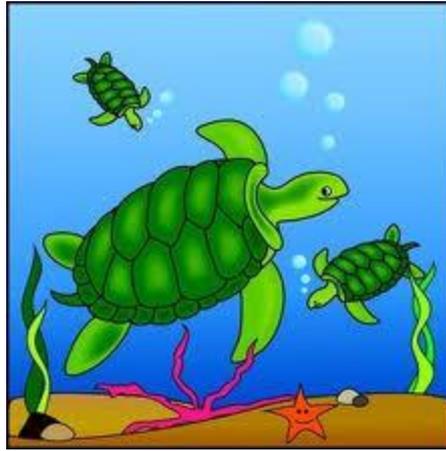


Loggerheads nest regularly on Georgia's islands!



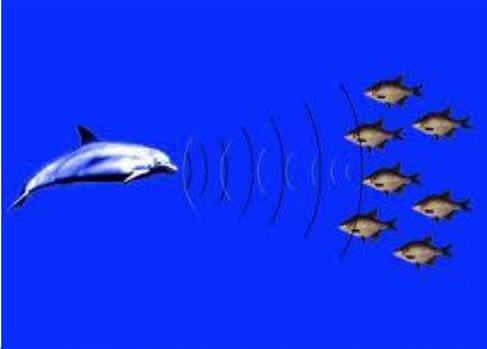


Why would this habitat be suited for specific plants?



Seaweed – Seaweed is a plant that attaches itself to **underwater** rocks, **coral**, or **shells**. It requires a **saltwater** environment, and water which is clear enough to allow **light** through for photosynthesis.

What are the features of animals that allow them to live and thrive in this region of Georgia?



- Have **gills** to breathe under water or can hold their breath for a long time.
- Can survive in **salt** water.
- Can move quickly underwater to capture **food** or escape from **predators** (fins, flippers, etc.)
- **Webbed** feet for moving in water.
- Animals **communicate** underwater with sounds and movements.
- Animals **camouflage** to avoid detection from predators or prey.

What are the features of plants that allow them to live and thrive in this region of Georgia?

- **Deep** roots attach to **underwater** rocks.
- Plants can grow in **ocean's salt water**.
- Some plants have **air spaces** in their **stems** to help hold the plant up in the water
- Plants that can survive totally in water.
- **Flexible stems** that can withstand **water** movement.

