

HUMAN THREATS TO SEA TURTLES

Read the passage and complete the cause-effect diagram.

Seven different species of sea (or marine) turtles grace our ocean waters, from the shallow seagrass beds of the Indian Ocean to the colorful reefs of the Coral Triangle and the sandy beaches of the Eastern Pacific.

Over the last 200 years, human activities have become a threat to the survival of these animals. Killed for their eggs, meat, skin, and shells, sea turtles suffer from poaching and over-exploitation. Sometimes, turtles get stuck in old fishing nets. When a turtle becomes tangled in one of these nets, it cannot swim. This means that they may drown. Another threat to sea turtles is plastic bags that have been thrown in the water. Turtles think that these plastic bags are jellyfish and so they try to eat them. This makes the turtle sick and they often die. They also face habitat destruction and accidental capture—known as bycatch—in fishing gear. Water pollution poisons sea animals and other sea life, such as seagrass. Seagrass is an important food for turtles. This can mean that there is not enough food for the turtles to live.

Sometimes, sea turtles are hurt or killed when a boat hits them. The propeller cuts into the turtle.



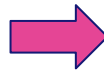
NAME _____

Complete the boxes either with causes or effects.

CAUSE

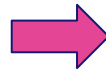
EFFECT

Sea turtles are killed for their eggs, meat, skin, and shells.



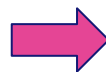
[Empty dashed box for effect]

[Empty dashed box for cause]



Turtles cannot swim and they may drown.

Water pollution poisons sea animals and other sea life, such as seagrass.



[Empty dashed box for effect]

