

FOLLOW THE LAWS

- It is ILLEGAL to buy or sell Hicatee
- It is ILLEGAL to catch between 1 May and 31 May
- It is ILLEGAL to capture in several areas in Belize
- A person must have no more than 3 Hicatees on them at any time or transport more than five in any vehicle
- There are size limits: Any females caught must be between 15.2 to 17.2 inches in size
- No person shall possess or use a net to take Hicatee

TAKE ACTION

- Follow BFREE on social media for updates and news about Hicatee Awareness Month
- Be a Hicatee Hero; make the Promise and spread the word!
- Do your part to keep rivers and other waterways healthy for humans and wildlife
- Take time out to be a part of (or lead!) a river cleanup campaign

HICATEE PROMISE

I, (your name here) promise as a Hicatee Hero to obey the laws of Belize that protect Hicatee and other wildlife; to respect their homes in the wild, and to share with others why the hicatee is a national treasure!



NATIONAL HICATEE DAY

Join Hicatee Heroes on National Hicatee Day, 17 October to celebrate our national treasure! The Hicatee is disappearing, but Hicatee Heroes can save it!

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FILL-IN-THE-BLANK QUESTIONS



Name:

1. Female Hicatee turtles are at least _____ years old when they begin to lay eggs.
2. Hicatee are strictly _____ meaning they feed on leaves, grasses, fruits, and flowers.
3. Critically endangered means that there is a very high risk that the animal will become _____ and will cease to exist anywhere on the planet.
4. One of the many things that makes Hicatee turtles so special is that they are the lone surviving species in a family of turtles dating back to the age of _____!
5. To help Hicatee I can make the _____ and become a Hicatee Hero!
6. Hicatee can grow to be anywhere between 14 - _____ inches and can weight up to _____ pounds.
7. Hicatee turtles look the same until they reach adulthood. Adult male Hicatee turtles have bright _____ heads and longer tails than the females. Females have _____ heads and grow to be larger than males.
8. Hicatee turtles can live up to _____ years, maybe even more!
9. There are many threats to Hicatee turtles including habitat loss and other animals eating them, but the biggest threat hicatee face are _____ eating them.
10. Hicatee turtles nest below the surface of the water in muddy banks and lay in clutches of _____ - _____ eggs.
11. Hicatee turtles can be found in Belize, parts of Mexico, and _____. There are more Hicatee left in _____ than in any of the other countries.
12. Hicatee turtles live in deep rivers, _____, and other freshwater or brackish water bodies. They are rarely seen on land.

SAVE THE HICATEE FACTSHEET



1. Do Hicatee live in other countries besides Belize?

Yes, Hicatees are also found in parts of Mexico and Guatemala. However, there are more Hicatee left in Belize than in the other countries.

2. How large do Hicatee grow?

Hicatee can grow to be anywhere between 14 - 25 inches and weigh up to 50 pounds or more.

3. What do Hicatee eat?

Hicatee are strictly vegetarian meaning they feed on leaves, grasses, fruits, and flowers.

4. What is the lifespan of a Hicatee?

They can live up to 45 years - maybe more!

5. What makes the Hicatee special?

One thing that makes Hicatee special is that it is the lone surviving species in a family of turtles dating back to the age of dinosaurs!

6. Where do Hicatee live?

Hicatee live in deep rivers, lagoons, and other freshwater or brackish water bodies. They are rarely seen on land.

7. Do male and female Hicatee look the same?

Hicatee look the same until they reach adulthood. Adult males have bright yellow heads and longer tails. Females have brown heads and grow to be larger than males.

8. How many eggs can a Hicatee lay at one time?

Hicatee nest below the surface of the water in muddy banks and lay in clutches of 8-19 eggs.

9. How old is a female Hicatee when she starts to lay eggs?

Hicatee are at least 16 years old when they begin to lay eggs.

10. What is the biggest threat to the Hicatee?

Humans eating them! There are many threats to Hicatee turtles including habitat loss and other animals eating them, but humans are their biggest threat.

11. What does it mean to be critically endangered?

Critically endangered means that there is a very high risk that the animal will become extinct and will cease to exist anywhere on the planet.

12. What can I do to help the Hicatee?

Make the Hicatee Promise and become a Hicatee Hero!