

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!