

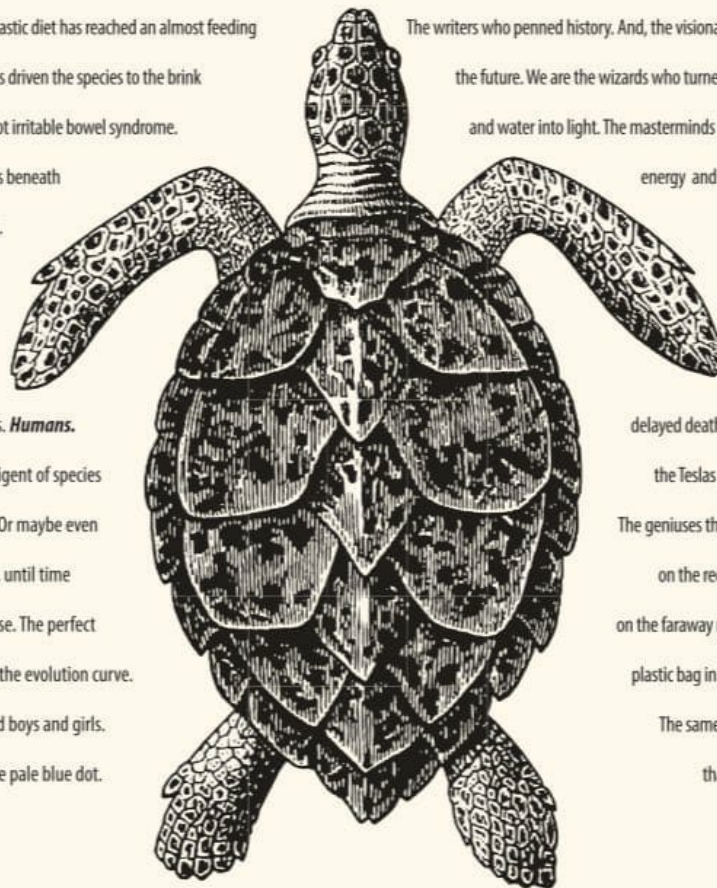
# MEET THE DUMBEST CREATURE ON THE PLANET.

Introducing the sea turtle. Such is its lack of intelligence that the average sea turtle (which is every sea turtle, if you get the drift) cannot even tell the difference between a plastic bag and a jelly fish. That says a lot when you consider that the jelly fish is the turtle's favourite food. As a result, the shelled idiot gobbles down floating plastic bags in the ocean and ends up choking to death. This plastic diet has reached an almost feeding frenzy that it has driven the species to the brink of extinction. Not irritable bowel syndrome.

Not a few rashes beneath that dense shell.

But  
*Extinction.*  
Idiots.

Then there is us. *Humans.*  
The most intelligent of species on this planet. Or maybe even in the universe, until time proves otherwise. The perfect culmination of the evolution curve. God's blue-eyed boys and girls. The rulers of the pale blue dot.



The masters of the land, the sea and the sky. The bravehearts who tamed wild elephants, ferocious lions and galloping horses. The thinkers who outthought the rest. The inventors of fire, the wheel and the power to dream. The virtuosos who unified the world through language and made it a smaller place. The artists who painted ceilings divine. The singers who made the skies weep. The writers who penned history. And, the visionaries who wrote the future. We are the wizards who turned air into water and water into light. The masterminds who harnessed

energy and took firm reins of it. The brains that fought disease and delayed death. The Einsteins, the Teslas and the Musks. The geniuses that put a vehicle on the red planet, a man on the faraway moon, and that plastic bag in the vast ocean. The same one that killed that stupid turtle.

What would you do to help these victims of plastic pollution? Write to us at [hello@thehindu.co.in](mailto:hello@thehindu.co.in) and get featured.

3rd March, 2020 - World Wildlife Day

THE  HINDU

**Guiding question:** How does this text use both written and visual language to call the reader to action?