

MATING

TURTLES REPRODUCE INFREQUENTLY (EVERY 1-3 YEARS) AND THEIR YOUNG HAVE A NATURALLY LOW SURVIVAL RATE ; THEREFORE, EVERY MATING AND NESTING ATTEMPT IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT TO THE LOCAL POPULATION.

WHEN SEA TURTLES REACH MATURITY AND ARE READY TO REPRODUCE, THEY MIGRATE FROM THEIR FEEDING GROUNDS TO THE BEACH WHERE THEY WERE BORN.

EGGS

THE FEMALE TURTLE MAKE A NEST FOR LAYING EGGS. THE NESTING PROCESS CAN TAKE FROM 45 MIN TO 5H. A FEMALE SEA TURTLE CAN NEST SEVERAL TIMES DURING EACH NESTING SEASON AND WILL MAKE ANYWHERE FROM 2 TO 8 NESTS TO MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF EGGS LAID.

THE AVERAGE NEST CONTAINS BETWEEN 80 AND 200 EGGS DEPENDING ON THE SPECIES

MATING



EGGS



LIFE CYCLE OF A SEE TURTLE

ADULT



ADULT

ONCE SEA TURTLES MATURE, BOTH MALES AND FEMALES WILL LEAVE COASTAL AREAS AND MIGRATE HUNDREDS OR EVEN THOUSANDS OF MILES TO BREEDING AREAS WHERE THEY WILL MATE AND BEGIN THE REPRODUCTIVE STAGE OF THEIR LIVES.

FEMALES WILL MATE WITH MULTIPLE MALES, STORING SPERM TO FERTILIZE MULTIPLE CLUTCHES OF EGGS THAT WILL BE LAID OVER THE COURSE OF A COUPLE OF MONTHS.

HATCHLING



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SEA TURTLES HATCH THROUGHOUT THE YEAR BUT MOSTLY IN SUMMER. HATCHLINGS USE A CARBUNCLE (TEMPORARY EGG TOOTH) TO HELP BREAK OPEN THE SHELL. AFTER HATCHING, THE YOUNG TURTLES MAY TAKE 3 TO 7 DAYS TO DIG THEIR WAY TO THE SURFACE.

HATCHLINGS USUALLY WAIT UNTIL NIGHT TO EMERGE FROM THE NEST. EMERGING AT NIGHT REDUCES EXPOSURE TO DAYTIME PREDATORS.

JUVENILES



JUVENILES

ONCE HATCHLINGS LEAVE THE NEST, THEY ARE OFTEN NOT SEEN AGAIN UNTIL THEY RETURN TO COASTAL WATERS YEARS LATER AS JUVENILES.

NATURAL SURVIVAL RATE OF JUVENILE SEA TURTLES IS APPROXIMATELY 10 IN 100

SIZE, WEIGHT & MATURITY AGE RANGE OF 4 MOST POPULAR SEA TURTLES

LEATHERBACKS

SIZE : ON AVERAGE 1.5-2M (4-6 FT) LONG
WEIGHT : 300 - 500 KG
MATURITY AGE RANGE: FROM 10 TO 15 YEARS.
THE LARGEST OF ALL SEA TURTLES

GREENS

SIZE : ON AVERAGE 75-134 CM (2.5-4 FT)
WEIGHT : 45-250 KG
MATURITY AGE RANGE: 25 TO 50 YEARS

RIDLEYS

SIZE : 70 CM (JUST OVER 2 FEET)
WEIGHT : UP TO 45 KG
MATURITY AGE RANGE : FROM 10 TO 15 YEARS
THE SMALLEST SPECIES OF SEA TURTLES.

LOGGERHEAD

SIZE : 65 TO 115 CM
WEIGHT : 40 AND 180 KG
MATURITY AGE RANGE : 25 TO 35 YEARS