

**About 20% of
the eggs of a
nest hatch**

**Incubation is
the period of
time it takes for
eggs to hatch**

**Typical
incubation
period is 50-60
days**

**The hatchlings
head toward
the light on the
water**

**It takes the
hatchlings 3-7
days to dig to
the surface**

**Eggs are
synchronized to
timed to hatch
about the same
time so there is
enough labor to
dig to the
surface**

**Hatchlings
usually emerge
from the nest
at night when it
easier to follow
the light on the
water**

**Disorientation is
being mis-
directed by
some energy or
force so the
hatchling
becomes lost or
dies**

**Hotel and street
lights are
brighter than the
light the
hatchlings must
head for**

If storms drive the water high enough to submerge the eggs, and if left that way very long, the embryo could drown

150,000 pound of turtle eggs are typically found along a 20-mile beach in Florida each breeding season

Human or mechanical sounds may drown out the sound of the surf and so the hatchlings head the wrong way

50% of the hatchlings survive long enough to get into the water

50% of the nests are disoriented by bright city lights, etc.

The hatchling has been “imprisoned” inside the shell for a long time and finds it difficult to move normally for a while

The hatchling swims INTO the waves, which will get it safely away from the sand

The hatchling has a “egg tooth” on its beak with which it can break through the egg shell

The egg sac provides the developing embryo and the hatchling food until it can find food in the water

The hatchlings mostly eat seaweed and other marine plants like algae

Some dangers facing the hatchlings are human lights, human noise, dehydration, exhaustion, depredation, crushing, harvesting, birds and crabs

Some dangers facing the sea turtle egg are: harvesting, crushing, and Feral animals

The Lost Years are from 3- 5 years until they are large enough to track and study

We know the least about the juvenile stage, mainly because they are so small and had to see or find

Some juvenile sea turtles have been found in the Sargasso Sea feeding on the seaweed there

During the nesting stage, adult turtles face the dangers: habitat change, habitat destruction, false crawl, harvesting, species competition, and stranding

Adult marine turtles face these dangers: fish and shrimp nets, longline fishing, harvesting, boat collisions, cold stunning, diseases and old age

Some of the dangers facing juvenile sea turtles are plastic, fish line, tar balls, big fish, sharks and birds

The female sea turtle can lay 50 – 80 eggs in a nest

Female sea turtles will come back on land and lay 5 – 8 clutches in a single season

The adult sea turtles return to the nesting areas every 2 – 3 years to lay more eggs

The female digs a nest hole about 18 inches deep

A false crawl is when a female has come ashore to nest but something frightens her and she returns to the sea without laying any eggs

It takes the female from 1-2 hours to lay the eggs, after which she is exhausted

The female will return to the same beach where she hatched, and there she will lay her eggs

The female sea turtle will return to from 5-35 miles of the beach where she hatched

The female crawls up the beach to the dune area, above the highest tides' reach

Once the male hatchling has entered the sea, even as an adult, they remain in the ocean, never returning to the beach

Most marine turtles are about 30 years old when they become mature and begin migration to the nesting grounds

Sea turtles may migrate 1500 miles to get to their nesting grounds

Stranding is a term describing turtles found on land and unable to return to the sea for some reason

A cold stunned sea turtle is one that has become hypothermic due to severe cold weather.

Female sea turtles do not provide any care for their nests of eggs, relying on the large number of eggs to produce the next generation

TED is an acronym for TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICE which is added to fishing or shrimping nets to allow sea turtles to escape

Beach habitat needed by sea turtles can be washed away during a hurricane or tropical storm

MPA is an acronym for MARINE PROTECTION AREA that reduces fishing, etc. to aid sea turtle's survival

If the sand's temperature in the nest is 88° F or warmer, all the hatchlings will be females

If the sand's temperature in the nest is 81° F or cooler, all the hatchlings will be males

If the sand's temperature in the nest stays at 84° F., half the hatchlings will be male and half will be female

A circadian rhythm is a natural, internal process that regulates the sleep-wake cycle and repeats roughly every 24 hours.

A female sea turtle makes about as many false crawls as successful trips

The nesting season for sea turtles is from May to Sept., peaking in June & July

The egg of a sea turtle is about the size of a golf ball and the hatchling may weigh about 1 ounce when hatched

The typical diet of a juvenile sea turtle is omnivorous—eating both meat and plants

The diet of all marine turtles but the Green Turtle is carnivorous