

ALL ABOUT The Life Cycle of Sea Turtles

Designed for English Language Learners

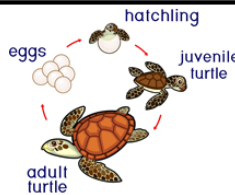


Listening Reading Speaking Writing

VOCABULARY

Word Wall

life cycle



eggs



hatchling



juvenile



adult



hatch



emerge



crawl



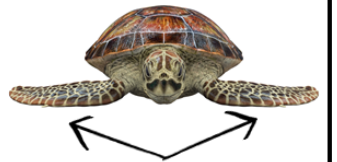
predator



ocean



flippers



shell



beach



nesting



nest



matching



beach



ocean



migration



currents

READING

5 passages

The Life Cycle of Sea Turtles

A sea turtle lays eggs.

The eggs hatch.

The baby sea turtles, or hatchlings, crawl to the ocean.

Young sea turtles eat and grow.

Sea turtles migrate, or swim far.

They eat jellyfish and sea grass.

Adult sea turtles find a mate.

The female sea turtle crawls up the beach and lays eggs.

The life cycle begins again.



Sea Turtle Nesting

The sea turtle life cycle begins when a female lays eggs, often on the same beach she was born.

First, a female slowly crawls up the beach until she finds a good spot to nest. Next, she uses her back flippers to dig a deep hole. Then, she lays about 80-100 eggs. Afterwards, she covers the nest with sand to keep the eggs safe. She does her best to camouflage, or hide, the nest from predators, using her front flippers to toss sand all around. Finally, the female sea turtle returns to the ocean, leaving her eggs and hatchlings to survive on their own.

A female can nest between four to eight times during a nesting season. That's a lot of eggs!



What I Know

1. This passage is mostly about _____.

- a) baby sea turtles
- b) what sea turtles eat
- c) the life of sea turtles

2. What happens first?

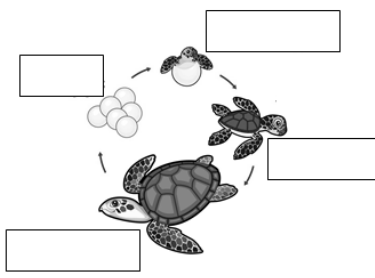
- a) migration
- b) sea turtles eat and grow
- c) hatchlings crawl to the ocean

3. What do sea turtles eat?

- a) birds
- b) jellyfish
- c) sea grass

4. Label

juvenile
adult
eggs
hatchling



What I Know

1. What does the female sea turtle do first?

- a) cover the eggs
- b) hide the nest
- c) dig a deep hole

2. What does the female use to dig her nest?

- a) front flippers
- b) back flippers
- c) shell

3. What does the female sea turtle do last?

- a) go back into the ocean
- b) camouflage the nest

Fun Fact

The temperature of the sand determines if the eggs will be male or female. When the sand is cooler, more males hatch. When the sand is warmer, more females hatch.

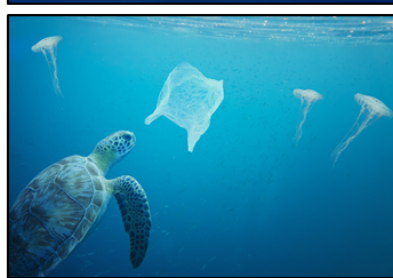
A Sea Turtle's Diet

Different types of sea turtles eat different things. Some food that sea turtles like to eat are seagrass, crabs, shrimp and jellyfish. Do sea turtles get stung when they eat jellyfish? No, they are protected and not bothered by the stings.

Plastic bags floating in the water are a danger to sea turtles because they look a lot like jellyfish. Sea turtles eat the plastic bags, then become sick, or even die.

Sea turtles spend many years eating and growing, and their diet can change. A young juvenile sea turtle might eat plants and animals, but as an adult will only eat plants.

Depending on where sea turtles live can also effect their diet. Coral reefs are a favorite place to find food. They are full of small sea creatures and sea grass. No matter what a sea turtle likes to eat, they will likely find it in a coral reef.



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What I Know

1. This passage is mostly about _____.

- a) where sea turtles live
- b) what sea turtles eat
- c) why sea turtles eat plastic bags

2. Name 3 things sea turtles like to eat.

- 1- _____
- 2- _____
- 3- _____

3. Where can sea turtles find a variety of food?

- a) in the open ocean
- b) in a coral reef
- c) on land

Sea Turtles: The Hatchling Stage

A sea turtle's life is not easy. Once a female sea turtle lays her eggs in a nest and covers them with sand, she heads back to the ocean.

It takes about 6-8 weeks for the eggs to hatch. After hatching, the baby sea turtles, called hatchlings, push themselves up through the sand until they reach the surface. This is hard work and can take three or more days.

Once on the surface, the hatchlings emerge from the nest and are pulled to the ocean by a natural instinct, often using the moonlight as their guide.

Predators, like raccoons, wild dogs, birds and crabs like to eat little hatchlings. It's a dangerous journey from the nest to the sea, so waiting until the safest time to leave is important.

When hatchlings reach the ocean, a "swimming frenzy" begins. Baby sea turtles swim nonstop for about 24-48 hours. Once they make it to deeper water away from the shore, the frenzy ends. Their chances for survival are much higher.

A sea turtle's life is dangerous and exhausting. Would you agree?

How long does it take for eggs to hatch?

- a) 1 month
- b) 6 or more days
- c) 6-8 weeks

What animals are baby sea turtle predators?

- a) crabs
- b) wild dogs
- c) birds

What is a "swimming frenzy?"

Did You Know?

Only 1 out of a 1000 sea turtles make it to adulthood.

Once in adulthood, sea turtles can live 50 years or more.



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WRITING

a variety

Name: _____



Sea Turtles

can	have	are

Name: _____



Sea Turtles

sea turtle stage	can	have	are
egg			
hatchling			
juvenile			

Name: _____



Life Cycle: Sea Turtles

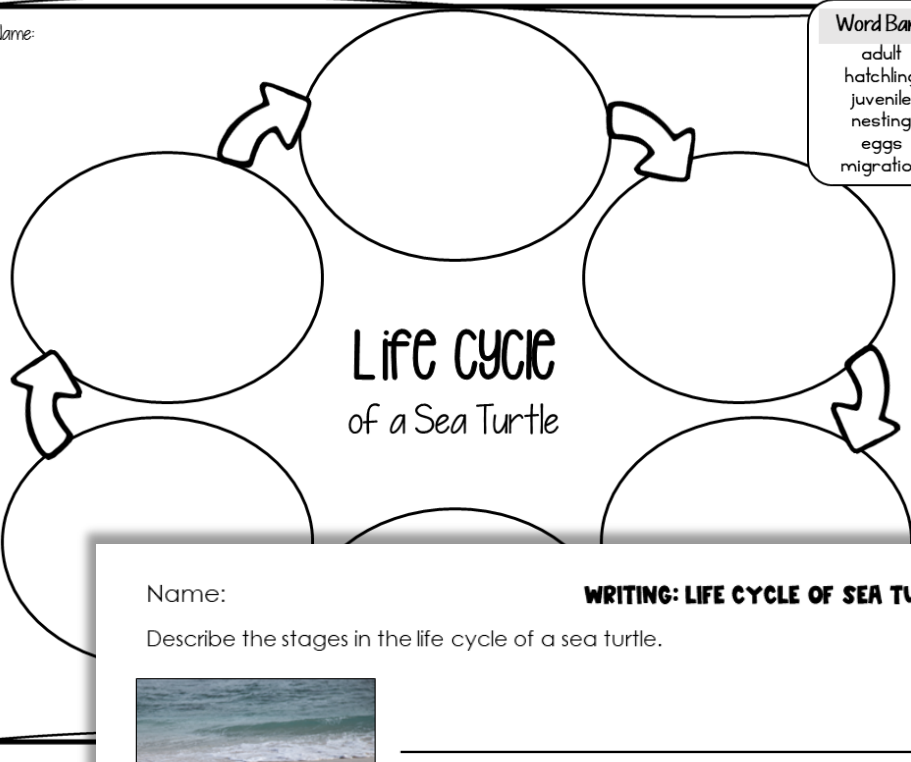
Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3

Name: _____





Name: _____



Life cycle of a Sea Turtle

Word Bank

- adult
- hatchling
- juvenile
- nesting
- eggs
- migration

Name: _____

WRITING: LIFE CYCLE OF SEA TURTLES

Describe the stages in the life cycle of a sea turtle.







LISTENING

3 activities
With answer keys

TEACHER NOTES

READ WORKS LISTENING ACTIVITY:

AN ACCOUNT FOR WWW.READWORKS.ORG IS NEEDED. (IT'S FREE)

After opening an account, click on the links to access the articles and audio.

#1 Audio: A S

<https://www.readworks.org/reading-passages/428-4b55f33f6>

#2 Audio: Sea

<https://www.readworks.org/reading-passages/934c-5557c2c3f>

Recommend
Choose which
Play the audio

Listening Activity



Name: _____

Listen carefully to the audio, then answer the questions.

Listening Activity



#1 Audio: A Sea Turtles Life Story

1. Why does the female sea turtle cover her eggs with sand?
2. About how long does it take for sea turtle eggs to hatch?
3. About how long can sea turtles live?
4. When do male sea turtles go on land?
A) at night B) once a year C) never

#2 Audio: Sea Turtles Build Nest

1. Where do female sea turtles build their nests?
A) on a beach
2. About how many eggs do female sea turtles lay?
A) 5 - 20 B) 15 - 20
3. What does the mother sea turtle do after she lays her eggs?
4. What do baby sea turtles do after they hatch?

TEACHER NOTES

Video Link:

[All About Sea Turtles - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59j8k8k8k8k)

Recommend for intermediate English learners.

Support stu

You might
be listening

You might
answer ques

Listening Activity



Name: _____

Watch and listen carefully to the video, then answer the questions.

1. How many different species of sea turtles are there in the world?
3 7 20
2. What is something sea turtles eat?
crabs fish insects
3. How do sea turtles breathe?
they come to the surface for air they breathe under water they don't breathe
4. Why do sea turtles go on land?
to eat to sleep to lay eggs
5. About how many eggs do female sea turtles lay?
10 100 1000
6. What determines the sex of baby sea turtles?
time of year temperature of the sand weather
7. How long can sea turtles live?
1 year 20 years 50 years
8. How can people help sea turtles?
properly throw away trash avoid using plastic recycle

VIDEOS TO SUPPLEMENT INSTRUCTION

- GREAT FOR LISTENING AND SPEAKING ACTIVITIES
- ALWAYS VIEW FIRST IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE SHOWING

[Cuba's Wild Revolution | Watch Tiny Turtles Tumble Towards the Sea | Nature | PBS](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59j8k8k8k8k)

a listening activity is included for this video
[\[59\] All About Sea Turtles - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59j8k8k8k8k)

[\[59\] The Life Cycle of a Sea Turtle Motion Graphic.wmv - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59j8k8k8k8k)

[All About Sea Turtles - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59j8k8k8k8k)

[Life cycle of a sea turtle - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59j8k8k8k8k)

[Sea Turtles: The Lost Years - Full Episode - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59j8k8k8k8k) (a longer video)

[Sea Turtle Migration Video - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59j8k8k8k8k)

[Too Rare To Wear Introduction - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59j8k8k8k8k)

WEBSITES

<https://www.seeturtles.org/>

www.readworks.org

Accounts are free!

Search "sea turtles" for reading passages

www.Epicbooks.com

Accounts are free!

Search "sea turtles" for awesome leveled books and videos

plus links
to videos

SPEAKING

LET'S TALK!

WORD - SENTENCE - DISCOURSE



1 - What do you see?

2 - Describe what's happening.

3 - What more can be added?

LET'S TALK!

WORD - SENTENCE - DISCOURSE



1 - What do you see?

LET'S TALK!

WORD - SENTENCE - DISCOURSE



1 - What do you see?

2 - Describe what's happening.

3 - What more can be added?

LET'S TALK!

1 - What do you see?

I SEE _____

I ALSO SEE _____

2 - Describe what's happening.

THE _____ SEA TURTLE IS ...

THE _____ SEA TURTLES ARE ...

3 - What more can be added?

- HOW THIS HAPPENS
- WHY THIS HAPPENS
- WHERE THIS HAPPENS

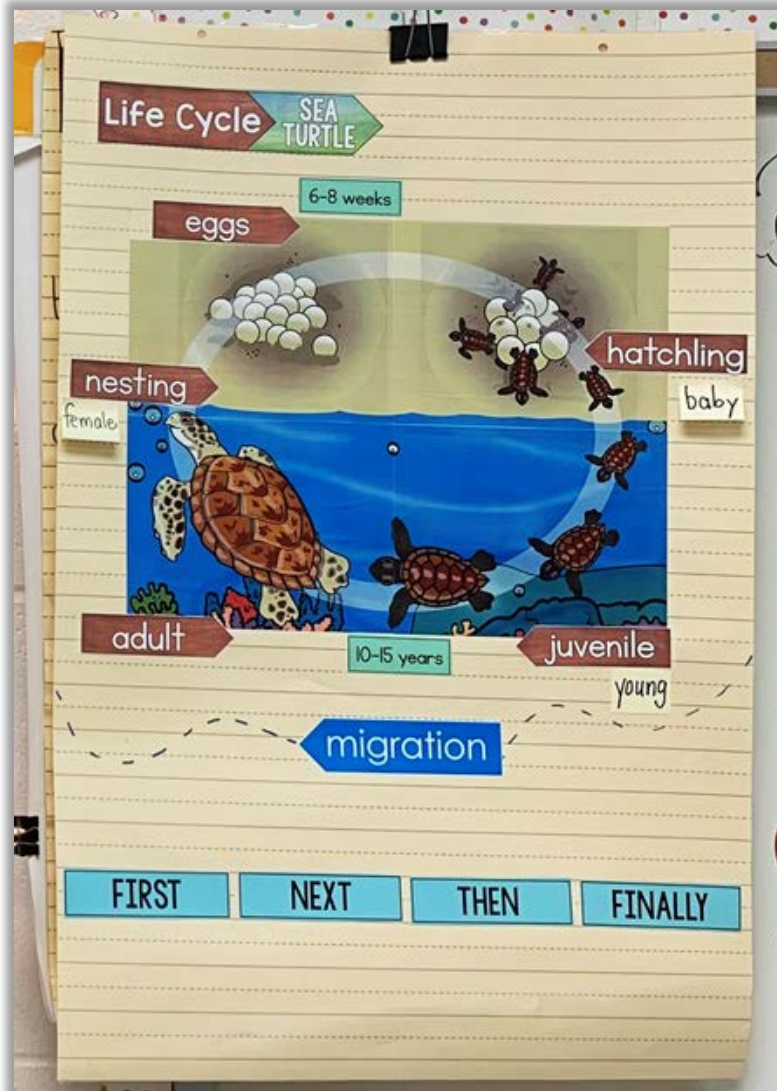
student page with
language supports

Let's Talk!

9 images

AND MORE!

Anchor chart



more reading

Baby sea turtles are born with instincts. Their instincts help them find the water. They crawl quickly to the ocean.

The crawl to the ocean can be dangerous. There are many predators, like birds and crabs, who like to eat the little hatchlings.

First, an adult female sea turtle crawls up a sandy beach. She digs a hole in the sand with her back flippers and lays her eggs.

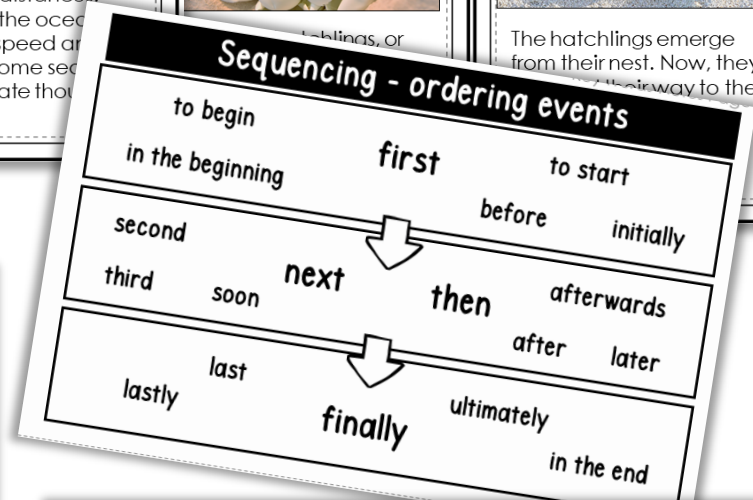
The mother sea turtle covers the nest with sand. Afterwards, she goes back into the ocean. In about eight weeks, the eggs are ready to hatch.

After the sea turtles reach the ocean, they spend many years eating and growing. Juvenile sea turtles like to eat sea grass and jellyfish.

Some turtles migrate, or travel long distances. Currents in the ocean give them speed and direction. Some sea turtles migrate thousands of miles.

First, an adult female sea turtle crawls up a sandy beach. She digs a hole in the sand with her back flippers and lays her eggs.

The hatchlings emerge from their nest. Now, they have to find their way to the ocean.



Activities

Create a Diagram: Cut out the pieces of the life cycle diagram. In a notebook, or on paper: 1- glue the title, 2- glue the illustration, 3- label each stage, 4- label the order of events

SEA TURTLE Life Cycle

egg adult First hatchling juvenile Next Finally

Name: _____

SEA TURTLE CLOZE ACTIVITY

eggs ocean beach
female hatchlings grow

First, a _____ sea turtle lays eggs on a beach. _____ the eggs will hatch. Next, the little _____ crawl to the _____. Over the next 10 to _____ the young sea turtles eat and _____. Finally, females go onto the _____ to lay _____.

Name: _____

Sea Turtle Life Cycle

Word Bank: adult, juvenile, egg, hatchling

Which stage comes after hatchling? _____

Which stage comes after adult? _____

Which stage comes before juvenile? _____

Which stage comes before egg? _____

SEA TURTLE VOCABULARY

PREDATORS

SEA TURTLE