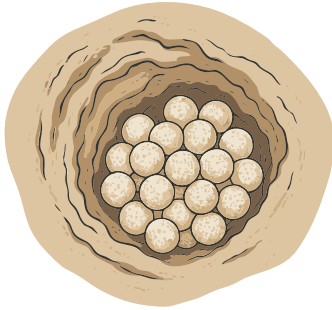


LIFE CYCLE OF A SEA TURTLE



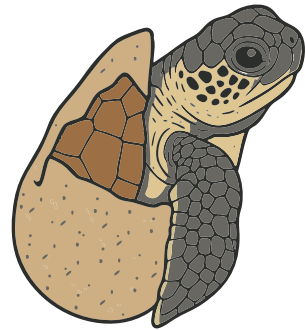
Eggs

Female sea turtles return to the beach where they were born to lay eggs - this is called natal homing. One nest can have 100 to 125 eggs. The eggs hatch after about 2 months, and the sand's temperature decides if the babies will be boys or girls. Warmer sand = more females. Cooler sand = more males.



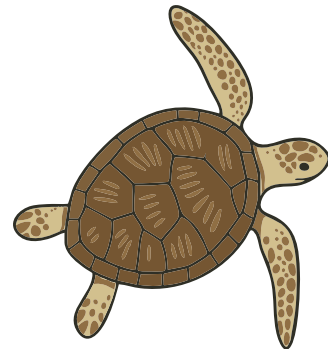
Hatchlings

Hatchlings use a special "egg tooth," called a caruncle, to break free from their shells. Once out, they instinctively head toward the ocean, usually guided by the natural light of the horizon. Sadly, it's estimated that only about 1 in 1,000 hatchlings will survive to become adults.



Juveniles

Juveniles experience a 'lost years' phase drifting in ocean currents, often hiding in floating seaweed like Sargassum for food and shelter. This phase can last several years.



Adults

Sea turtles reach maturity between 10 to 50 years old. They migrate long distances between feeding and nesting sites. Females can nest several times over a season which is every 2 - 4 years during their lifetime.

