

Life Cycle of a Loggerhead Sea Turtle



Sea turtles spend most of their life out at sea. Females only return to shore to lay eggs. They drag themselves up onto the beach with their flippers to find a place to nest. Once she has laid about one hundred eggs she returns to the sea. The following pictures show a loggerhead turtle using her flippers to cover the eggs she has laid in the sand. The eggs incubate in the warm sand for about 80 days before the hatchlings crawl out of their shells and head for open water. Those that survive to maturity will return to the same beach to lay their own eggs.



Conservationists monitor breeding grounds on beaches around the world.

They count eggs to record local turtle population for research purposes. They mark areas where turtle nests have been dug to warn people not to disturb them. This gives endangered species of turtles the best chance at life once they hatch.

You should never disturb a nest, or handle a turtle's eggs or its hatchlings.



