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Sea turtles lay eggs.

How do they grow?



## First, the mother turtle digs a nest.

The mother sea turtle crawls onto the beach at night. She uses her front **flippers** to dig a nest in the sand. Then with her back flippers, she digs a hole at the back of the nest. This is called the egg chamber.

flippers (flipper /'flɪpər/) *n* 鳍状肢





**flippers**



## **Then she lays her eggs.**

The mother turtle lays between fifty and two hundred eggs. They drop into the egg chamber. Then the mother turtle covers the nest with sand and returns to the water. She won't see her babies again.



## **Soon the eggs hatch.**

After about two months, the eggs hatch. Tiny sea turtles work together to dig their way out of the nest. It can take them days to reach the surface.







# Appendix

## Glossary

- **breeding** /'bri:diŋ/ *n* the process of mating and giving birth to young 繁殖
- **currents** (current /'kʌ:rənt/) *n* movements of water in one direction 水流
- **cycle** /'saɪkəl/ *n* a series of events or actions that happens again and again in the same order 周期
- **flippers** (flipper /'flɪpər/) *n* wide, flat limbs that help sea animals swim 鳍状肢
- **forage** /'fɑ:rɪdʒ/ *v* search for food 搜寻食物
- **hatchlings** (hatchling /'hætʃlɪŋ/) *n* animals that have just come out of eggs 刚出壳的小动物
- **instinct** /'ɪnstɪŋkt/ *n* something known without having to learn it 本能
- **mates** (mate /meɪt/) *n* animals that join together to produce young (动物的) 配偶
- **predators** (predator /'predətər/) *n* animals that eat or kill other animals for food 捕食者
- **roam** /roum/ *v* go from place to place 漫游

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## 参考译文

### 海龟产卵。海龟是怎么长大的？

#### 首先，海龟妈妈挖一个巢穴。

晚上，海龟妈妈爬到海滩上。它用自己鳍状的前肢在沙中挖了一个巢穴。然后，它用自己鳍状的后肢在巢穴后部挖了一个坑洞。这个坑洞叫卵坑。

#### 然后海龟妈妈产下自己的卵。

海龟妈妈产下50至200枚卵。这些卵掉进卵坑中。然后海龟妈妈用沙子把巢穴盖住，回到水里。它将不会再看它的宝宝们。

#### 很快这些卵孵化了。

在大约2个月后，这些卵孵化了。幼小的海龟一起挖沙离开巢穴。它们需要花几天时间挖沙才能到达地面。

#### 刚出壳的海龟宝宝游向大海深处。

晚上，刚出壳的海龟宝宝朝着大海进发。本能告诉它们该去哪里。刚出壳的海龟宝宝随着洋

流进入遥远的大海深处。在前往更深的海水的途中，它们尽量避开捕食者。

#### 海龟在大海中生活很多年。

刚出壳的海龟宝宝在大海中至少漫游5年。有些海龟在大海中生活超过20年。它们吃植物和动物，直到它们长得足够大，足以抵御捕食者。

#### 然后海龟回到浅水区。

年轻的海龟回到了沿海地区。在浅水中有更多的食物。但这里也有敌人。人类是海龟最大的威胁。许多海龟被钓鱼用的线缠住或被猎杀。

#### 海龟成年了。

海龟继续到处搜寻食物，尽情享用美食。它们从一个捕食区转移到另一个捕食区。很快它们就完全长大了。海龟宝宝长成成年海龟需要10至50年。



### 成年海龟寻找配偶。

成年海龟已经准备好建立自己的家庭了。它们游到自己的繁殖地。有些海龟要游数千英里\*。一旦到了繁殖地，它们就会寻找配偶。

### 然后，生命周期再次开始！

成年雌性海龟回到它们出生的海滩筑巢。人们正在努力确保海滩安全，使海滩上没有捕猎者和捕食者，这样海龟就能存活下来。很快，新一批刚出壳的海龟宝宝将开始它们自己的旅程！

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\* 1英里约为1.6千米。——编者注