

Read the article “Baby Sea Turtles” before answering Numbers 1 through 5.

Baby Sea Turtles

A female sea turtle swims toward land. She has come from hundreds of miles away. Somehow, she finds the beach where she was born.

She is ready to lay her eggs. She waits until night. Then she crawls out of the water onto the beach. This is slow, hard work. Her flippers are perfect for swimming but not for walking. She pulls her body along until she gets to dry sand. Then she starts to dig a nest. She uses her back flippers like shovels to dig a hole.

When the hole is deep enough, she lays her eggs. Different kinds of sea turtles lay different numbers of eggs. But it is always a lot. Sea turtles lay from 80 to 120 eggs at once. The eggs are about the size of ping pong balls. The shells have a tough skin. They bend but do not break.

When the eggs are in place, the mother covers them. She throws sand over the hole with her flippers. Then she crawls back to the ocean. Her work is done. She does not sit on her nest. She will not help her babies. They are on their own.

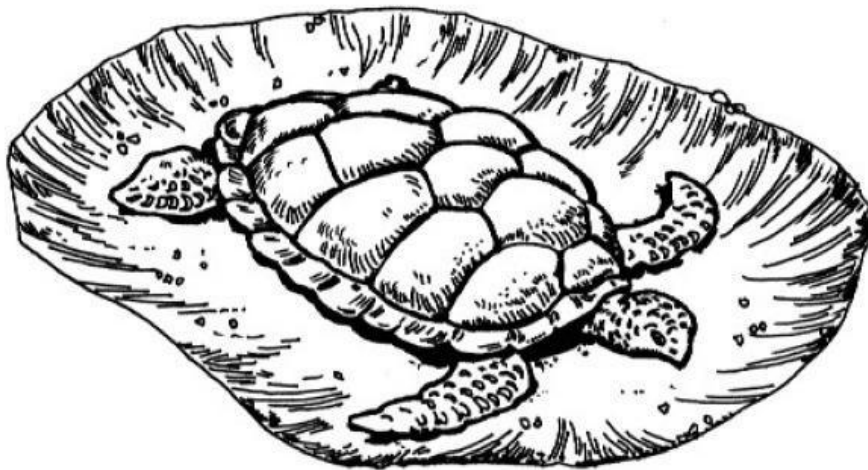
The sun’s heat soaks through the sand. It reaches the eggs and the baby turtles grow. After about 60 days, they are ready to hatch. The babies break open their shells. Then they start to dig out of the sand. The whole group works together.

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They wait until night to leave the nest. Then they burst out as a group and rush to the sea. They must move quickly. Hungry crabs and gulls dine on baby turtles. But it is dark. The babies are harder to see. And it helps that there are so many of them. Still, many baby turtles do not make it. But many do.

Once they are in the water, the baby turtles swim hard. They must swim through the waves to the open ocean. They must escape sharks and other fish. This is a very big job for little turtles.

The babies that survive grow up slowly in the sea. They spend all their time in the water. After many years, the females are ready to lay eggs. They find the beach where they were born. And it all starts again!



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Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on "Baby Sea Turtles."

- 1 Read the sentence from the article.

A female sea turtle swims toward land.

Which meaning of land is the **same** one used in the sentence above?

- (A) a country
- (B) to hit the ground after falling
- (C) to guide an airplane to the ground
- (D) part of the earth not covered by water

- 2 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: What is the main topic of "Baby Sea Turtles"?

- (A) how baby sea turtles hatch and survive
- (B) how mother sea turtles survive
- (C) what sea turtles eat
- (D) life in the sea

Part B: Which sentence from the article **best** tells the main topic?

- (A) Sea turtles lay from 80 to 120 eggs at once.
- (B) She throws sand over the hole with her flippers.
- (C) The babies are harder to see.
- (D) The babies that survive grow up slowly in the sea.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

- 3 Female sea turtles return to where they were born. Underline the sentence that gives this detail in the paragraphs below.

A female sea turtle swims toward land. She has come from hundreds of miles away. Somehow, she finds the beach where she was born.

She is ready to lay her eggs. She waits until night. Then she crawls out of the water onto the beach. . . .

- 4 Why do baby turtles rush across the sand after they are born? Pick **two** choices.
- (A) They are playing a game.
 - (B) They are happy to be alive.
 - (C) They are running from the birds.
 - (D) They are looking for their mother.
 - (E) They are trying to get to the water.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

- 5** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Read the sentence from the article.

They must swim through the waves to the open ocean.

Which meaning of the word waves is the **same** one used in the sentence above?

- (A) small curls in someone's hair
- (B) higher areas in moving water
- (C) a sudden change in the weather
- (D) when you move your hand back and forth

Part B: Which sentence uses the word waves in the same way it is used above?

- (A) My mother waves at me as the bus drives away.
- (B) I have waves in my hair, just like my grandmother.
- (C) There will be waves of cold air hitting the area next week.
- (D) The big waves caused the boat to rock back and forth on the sea.

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