

The Turtle and Her Little Ones

A mother turtle came to the sandy beach one night. She carefully dug a deep **nest** in the soft sand to prepare a home for her young. She laid her eggs in the nest and covered them with sand to keep them warm and safe. Then she returned to the sea. The sand protected the eggs from birds and other animals. After a few weeks, the baby turtles hatched. They used their tiny flippers to dig out of the nest and crawl toward the sea. They stayed together and moved quickly to avoid danger. Once they reached the ocean, the young turtles found food such as small sea plants, tiny fish, and other sea creatures. As they grew stronger, they learned to find food and protect themselves in the big ocean.

1. The mother turtle dug a _____ in the sand.
2. She laid her _____ in the nest.
3. The mother turtle covered the eggs with _____.
4. The sand kept the eggs _____ and safe.
5. The baby turtles used their tiny _____ to dig out.
6. The young turtles crawled toward the _____.
7. The baby turtles moved quickly to avoid _____.
8. The young turtles ate small sea _____ and tiny fish.
9. The ocean provided _____ for the young turtles.