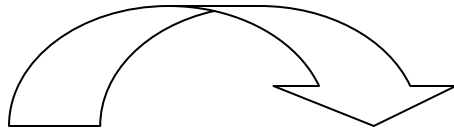


# The Life Cycle of a Sea Turtle



*sea turtle eggs*



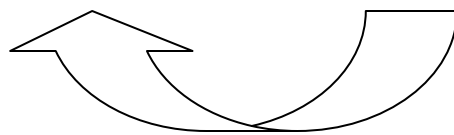
*sea turtle egg hatching*



*adult sea turtle*



*baby sea turtle*





*sea turtle eggs*



*sea turtle eggs  
hatching*



*baby sea turtle*



*adult sea turtle*



*Females use their back flippers to dig a small hole into which they deposit their eggs.*



*When fully developed, hatchlings break through their eggshell and slowly dig their way to the surface.*



*To avoid any predators, hatchlings will generally wait until night to head for the ocean.*



*Each nesting season, most females return to nest at the same beach which they hatched on.*