

# Cause and Effect

## Sea Turtles

The female sea turtle chooses a dry spot on the beach to dig a hole. In this hole, she will lay her eggs. This is because she wants to keep them safe from predators. It also keeps the eggs warm. A female sea turtle will usually lay between 80 to 120 eggs. The eggs are flexible and as a result, they can survive the drop into the nest without breaking. The mother then covers the nest with sand. Approximately 60 days later, the eggs will hatch.

Following their instincts, the hatchlings will make their way towards the ocean. If the turtles hatch at night, most will avoid predators and make it safely to the water. If they hatch during the day, most will be eaten by crabs, birds and other predators. The moon's reflection on the water helps guide the hatchlings to the water. Sometimes, artificial lights can confuse the hatchlings. Lights from the street can cause the baby turtles to become disoriented and lose their way. As a result, they may become dehydrated or be eaten.

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