



# Sea Turtle Hatchlings



by Ruth Owen

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# A very special night

It is nighttime on a warm, sandy beach.

Suddenly, a tiny head and two **flippers** appear from under the sand.

It's a baby loggerhead turtle.

The tiny turtle is leaving its underground **nest**.

Tonight is the start of a big adventure!



A photograph of a baby loggerhead turtle on a beach at night. The turtle is in the foreground, partially buried in dark sand, with its head and front flipper visible. The background shows the ocean under a dark sky with a large, bright full moon. Two red arrows point from text labels to the turtle's head and flipper.

**baby loggerhead  
turtle**

**flipper**

# What is a loggerhead turtle?

A loggerhead turtle is a large animal that lives in warm oceans.

An adult turtle can weigh as much as seven children.

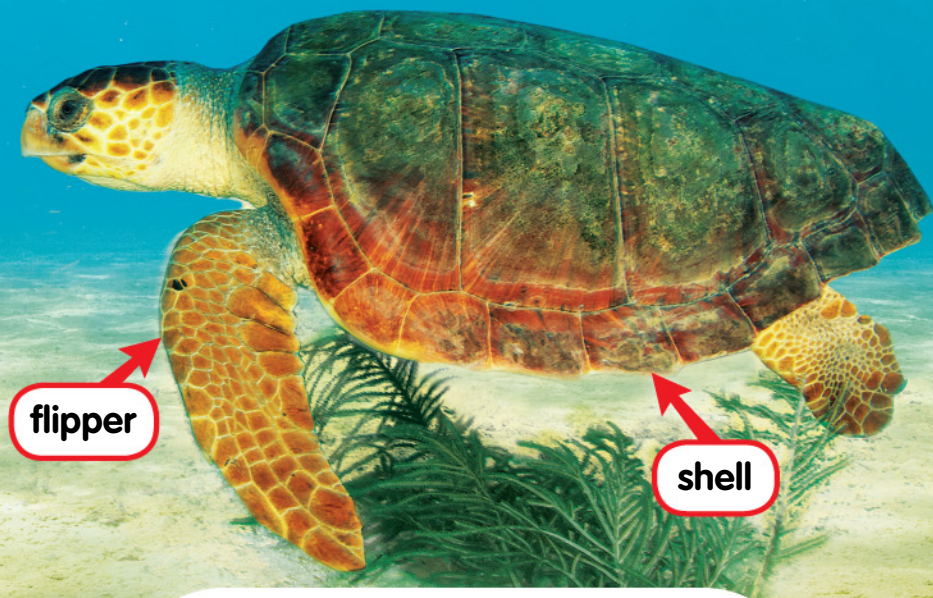


 Where loggerhead turtles live



A loggerhead turtle has four flippers that it uses to help it swim.

It also has a thick shell that helps protect it from enemies.



flipper

shell

Adult loggerhead turtle size



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## Read more

**Hall, Kirsten.** *Leatherback Turtle (SuperSized!)*. New York: Bearport Publishing (2007).

**Marsh, Laura.** *Sea Turtles (National Geographic Readers)*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society (2011).

**Wearing, Judy.** *Sea Turtles (World of Wonder)*. New York: Weigl Publishers Inc. (2010).

## Learn more online

To learn more about sea turtles, visit  
[www.bearportpublishing.com/WaterBabies](http://www.bearportpublishing.com/WaterBabies)

## About the author

Ruth Owen has been writing children's books for more than ten years. She particularly enjoys working on books about animals and the natural world. Ruth lives in Cornwall, England, just minutes from the ocean. She loves gardening and caring for her family of llamas.

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# Sea Turtle Hatchlings

On a warm beach at night, dozens of baby loggerhead sea turtles suddenly begin to claw their way out of a nest under the sand. Flippers appear and then heads—as the hatchlings emerge from underground and begin to run for the sea. Why were they underground? Why are they running? Look inside to read how these amazing turtle babies survive and eventually grow into giants of the sea.

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