



## Sea Turtles • Study Guide

In Malaysia there is an island called Sipadan known for more sea turtles than virtually anywhere on Earth. Jonathan visits this diverse ecosystem to learn about the life cycle of sea turtles. He is shocked to discover an amazingly complex and competitive environment and is fortunate enough to witness the complete reproductive cycle of Green sea turtles.

### Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the biology and life cycle of sea turtles.
2. Illustrates the challenges that sea turtles face to survive and reproduce.
3. Introduces viewers to the habitat of sea turtles.

### Questions for before watching the program

1. How do sea turtles breathe if they are underwater most of the time?
2. How do sea turtles produce their offspring? (Live birth, eggs, etc.?)
3. Do sea turtles ever get out of the water?

### Discussion for after watching the program

1. Why is it a tough job for a female sea turtle during mating?
2. Why do many males follow a mating pair of sea turtles?
3. What does the female sea turtle do to lay her eggs and protect them until they hatch?
4. Why is the depth of the nest very important?
5. When the nest hatches, what dangers do baby sea turtles face as they race to the sea and over the reef?
6. Where do the baby sea turtles go after they make it to the water?
7. Why are sea turtles extremely vulnerable while they are laying their eggs?
8. Why might sea turtles wait until dark to lay their eggs? (Hint--more than one reason!)