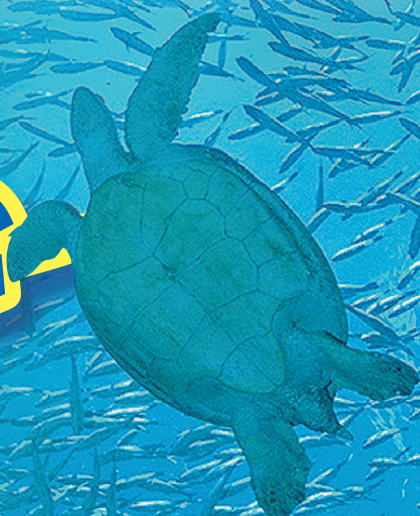


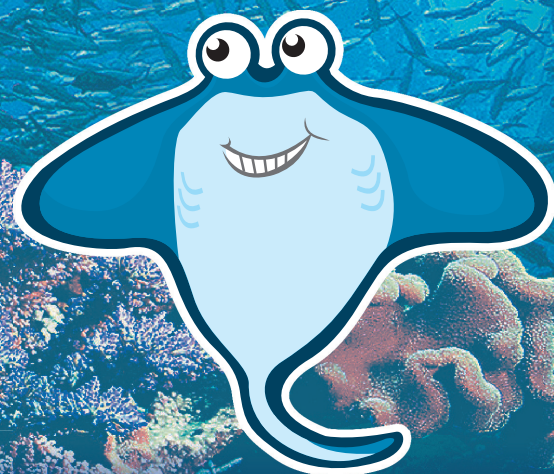
Goodies



Long live the turtle



What would you do if you could live such a long life?



Good question! I would have more time to sleep, eat and play! Yeah!



MAY is not only the start of summer, it also marks the start of the nesting season for thousands of sea turtles! Turtles are reptiles that live a long life. In many cultures, turtles are a symbol of longevity and good health. Do you know how turtles grow up and live? Read on to find out.



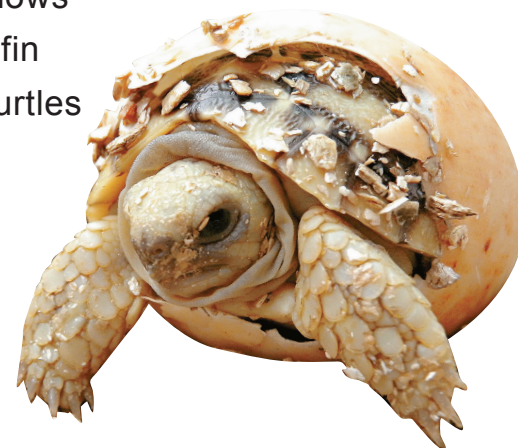
• Photos: AP

SEA turtles are one type of animal that shows **natal** homing, just like salmon and blue-fin tuna. Every year, thousands of mother turtles rush to their birthplace to give birth to new life!

The miracle life cycle

Giving birth

ON a special night, hundreds of mother turtles rush to the shore. They move their **flippers** to dig holes in the sand. After laying 50 to 200 eggs in an egg chamber, the mother turtles will then swim back to the sea.



Hatching

WHEN fully developed, the baby turtles break through their shells and slowly dig to the surface. Baby turtles are tiny; about the size of a one-dollar coin. Baby turtles are easy targets for big birds. To avoid being eaten by **predators**, they set off on their trip to the sea at night. Once they reach the sea, they will swim like crazy to reach the safer, deeper water.

Growing up

DAY after day, year after year, the baby turtles continue to grow. They eventually reach the feeding area where other adult turtles stay and find food. There they eat and save up energy for the great **migration** during the mating period.

Mating

DURING mating season, the turtles, who are now old enough to find a mating partner, swim back to the sea near the nesting area. There they will find the right partner and together they work hard on creating a new life.

Return to nesting area

AFTER a long journey, the mother turtles, with their fertilised eggs, finally return to their birthplace. Like their **ancestors**, they wait until night and use all their strength to dig holes into the sand. Then they carefully lay their eggs in the holes. There begins a new **generation** of sea turtles.

Sea turtles are such good mothers!

