



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

ReefED

educate to keep it great



REEF BABIES

A series of printable worksheet activities designed for students
to learn about animal reproduction on the Great Barrier Reef

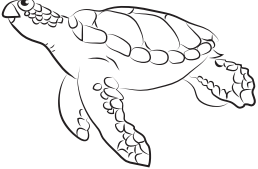


www.gbrmpa.gov.au



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Reef Babies

Animal	Do they have eggs or are their young born live? Research each animal to find a little more about how they raise their babies.
 Black tip reef sharks	
 Sea snakes	
 Turtles	
 Most fish	
 Seahorses	

Sea Turtles

Find the missing word in the text below

_____ has nothing to do
with his babies.

Mum crawls up the _____,
digs a hole in the sand and
carefully buries her _____.

She then goes back to _____
and leaves her eggs behind.



When the eggs _____
the baby turtles are all on
their own.

They dash to the sea,
where they _____.

Only 1 in 1000 turtles
will _____ to have
babies of their own.



WORDS:

beach

hatch

Dad

survive

eggs

sea

live



Leopard Sharks

Find the missing word in the text below

Dad doesn't take any interest in his _____.

Mum is very careful to wrap the shark _____ around a rock using a special _____ trailing from the egg's side.

She then leaves the egg by itself. It should be safe from _____ and currents for about 6 months until it hatches.

After _____ the little baby shark is on its own.



We have hatched leopard sharks at Reef HQ Aquarium.



Leopard Shark eggs are called mermaid's purses.

WORDS:

hatching

egg

offspring

storms

ribbon



Seahorses

Find the missing word in the text below

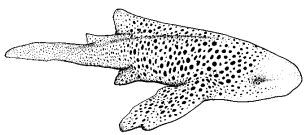
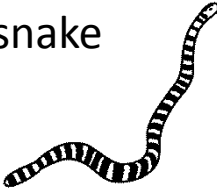
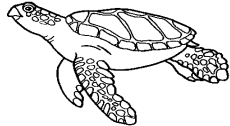
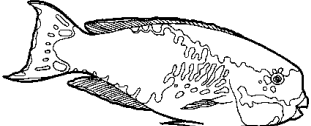
_____ doesn't look after the eggs. Dad keeps the eggs in his _____ to protect them. It takes about _____ weeks for the eggs to hatch.

The _____ are tiny and look the same as adults. The baby _____ must look after themselves.

They are able to _____ on their own.



WORDS: eight survive seahorses Mum pouch babies

Animal	How are they born?	Do the parents look after the babies?	Do the babies look like the parents?
Dugong 	Eggs Live young	Yes No	Yes No
Leopard Shark 	Eggs Live young	Yes No	Yes No
Seasnake 	Eggs Live young	Yes No	Yes No
Sea Turtle 	Eggs Live young	Yes No	Yes No
Most fish 	Eggs Live young	Yes No	Yes No
Seahorse 	Eggs Live young	Yes No	Yes No