



Image from USFWS

Sea Turtle Management Project

Worksheet to Accompany the
PhotoDocumentary by Rachel Teller

1. Thousands of people across the world volunteer their time to help ensure the survival of sea turtle species. What kinds of jobs do they do? _____

2. What agency has the task of issuing permits for sea turtle nest management projects in South Carolina? _____

3. T / F: If it is raining, the volunteers wait until it stops before they patrol the beach for tracks.

4. Why are the beaches surveyed from the last high tide line? _____

5. A _____ is when the female comes out of the water, but does not lay a nest. Why do you think this happens sometimes? _____

6. What does it mean to leave a nest *in situ*? _____

7. T / F: This photo shows tracks from two different females that came ashore to nest.

8. Based on the photo, in which direction was this turtle headed? _____

9. Volunteers study the _____, like broken vegetation and where the sand was thrown, to infer the nest location within the body pit.

10. T / F: Volunteers probe the sand to allow air to get to the nest chamber.

11. A nest is always left in situ if the eggs have a chance to survive. The nest is left in its original place if it is...

- above the _____ line
- on the _____ side of the sand dune
- in an area with little _____

12. T / F: Nests are relocated as often as possible so volunteers can monitor them.

13. During the relocation process, volunteers must be sure to protect the eggs from _____ and _____.

14. When relocation is necessary, volunteers must be very careful because rotating the eggs or moving them abruptly can cause _____ - _____ mortality, which means the embryo inside dies.

15. What five criteria constitute a good alternative nest site?

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-
-
-
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16. Why do you think the eggs recounted as they're placed in the new nest site? _____

17. T / F: If a nest is left in situ, the number of eggs laid will be unknown.

18. A _____ is a place where the eggs can incubate with reduced threats from erosion and predators.

19. What is an exception to the rule that a nest must be moved within 12 hours? _____

20. T / F: The purpose of the screen in the photo is to block wind and blowing sand.

21. How do the volunteers know when to expect the hatchlings to emerge? _____

22. Why do you think the volunteers wait a few days after the nest has boiled before they excavate it for an inventory? _____

23. _____ provide information about the reproductive health of the local sea turtle population.

24. T / F: After emergence, there are only empty shells left in the nest cavity.

25. Why might these turtles need help to get to the water? _____

26. T / F: The volunteers' work is finished once all of the nests have been inventoried.

27. Why do you think we need to have a management plan for sea turtles? Why can't the species recover on its own? _____

28. Now that you have learned about what others do, what are some things you could do to help ensure the survival of these marine reptiles? _____

