

Chase the Moon, Tiny Turtle

Activity Guide

Young readers will witness rare and extraordinary natural event as a baby loggerhead hatches from its shell. With nothing but the light of the moon to act as a guide, readers will follow the newborn turtles' harrowing attempts to outpace a series of predators on their march toward the glistening shore. After only narrowly avoiding hungry crabs, owls, and foxes, the turtle rides ocean waves to a calm clearing. Following a moment of peace in the still ocean water, the turtle joins the rest of its bale on a dive into the moonlit sea to continue the voyage home.

Told with a beautiful, lyrical rhyming sequence, *Chase the Moon, Tiny Turtle* introduces readers to the birth cycle of a loggerhead sea turtle. Through the newborn turtle's eyes, both kids and adults will marvel at the majestic, and sometimes dangerous seaside landscape from a perspective rarely seen before.

Kelly Jordan writes lyrical picture books for children that evoke wonder. She lives with her husband in Decatur, Georgia. This is her second book with Page Street Kids.

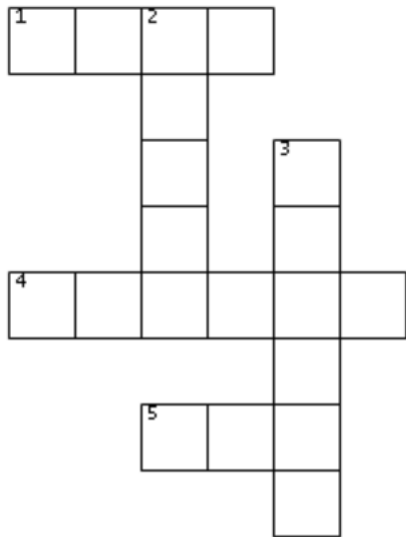
Sally Walker has received an MA in Children's Book Illustration at Cambridge School of Art. She is currently working as a graphic and motion designer for an eLearning company in the UK. She has a strong passion for nature and conserving the remaining natural wonders of the world.

From Nest to Sea: A Hatchling's Journey

Female loggerhead turtles travel thousands of miles to lay about one hundred eggs in a “clutch” on the same beach where they were born. When it's time, the turtle hatchlings break from their shells using a spike on their beak called a “caruncle,” or “egg tooth.” Then they push through the sand and start the dangerous journey to the ocean, following the light reflected from the moon. Along the way, they encounter land predators such as ghost crabs, shorebirds, raccoons, feral hogs, dogs, and fire ants. But the hatchlings' journey doesn't end once they arrive at the water; they continue to swim to the open sea, where they live near large patches of seaweed for several years as they grow.

Be a Hatchling Helper!

- **Watch your waste.** Turtles often ingest, become tangled in, or choke on plastic items. Instead of throwing plastic in the trash after a single use, recycle or reuse it instead.
- **Turn off the lights.** Since sea turtles rely on the moon's reflection to lead them to the ocean, it's important to turn off any lights near nesting sites so hatchlings don't head in the wrong direction—and into harm's way.
- **Champion the sea turtles.** If you live by the coast or an area where sea turtles nest, ask your local nature center if there are opportunities for you to volunteer with a turtle patrol or a turtle count. Share your sea turtle knowledge with your friends, family, and classmates and teach others how they can help too!



Across

1. In the sky at bedtime
4. How you feel before lunch
5. Night bird

Down

2. Covers 96.5% of the earth
3. Chase the Moon, Tiny . . .

Use the clues to fill the words above.

Words can go across or down.

Letters are shared when the words intersect.



Help Tiny Turtle Reach the Ocean



Coloring Page

Use your favorite colors to color this scene.

