

Read the story below and study the map.

# Turning the Tide for Turtles

## Biologists and governments fight to save the sea creatures

As evening falls, the light grows dim on La Escobilla Beach in Mexico. Slowly, thousands of sea turtles emerge from the waves. They crawl across the sand on unsteady flippers. Each is returning to the beach where it was born many years before. The turtles are back to lay their eggs.

La Escobilla (es-koh-bee-yah) Beach is in Oaxaca (wah-hah-kah), Mexico. It is a big nesting ground for olive ridley sea turtles. Every year from June to December, waves of olive ridleys come ashore to build their nests and lay their eggs. Then the turtles cover the eggs with sand and return to the ocean. In 45 days, the babies hatch and scamper into the ocean. "It's phenomenal," says biologist Wallace J. Nichols.

This ritual has unfolded on coastlines for about 150 million years. Turtles have outlived dinosaurs, but they're no match for modern predators. Many turtles become victims of poachers, or illegal hunters, who kill them for their meat and shells and raid nests for eggs. Sea turtles face many dangers. Some get caught in fishing nets. Others fall victim to the effects of pollution.

### TURTLE PROTECTION

Today, the world's population of sea turtles has become dangerously small. Scientists warn that without action, two of the species that live in the Pacific Ocean, the loggerhead and the leatherback, will be extinct in 30 years.

But the success of a program in Mexico shows that turtle survival is possible. At two major nesting beaches, La Escobilla and Morro Ayuta, the olive ridley population is bouncing back. Officials expect that this year there will be about 1 million olive ridley nests at La Escobilla. That's four times as many as there were in 1990, when sea turtle hunting was banned in Mexico.

What helped to turn the tide? Besides the hunting ban, a combination of community education and tough tactics, says Cuauhtémoc Peñaflores Salazar, the director of the Mexican Center for the Turtle in Oaxaca. Federal agents patrol area beaches, guarding nesting turtles and their eggs.

At the Turtle Center near La Escobilla, kids and adults learn about turtle protection. For generations, eating sea turtles and their eggs was a way of life. Today, poachers still sell turtle products. But the community has organized to help the animals. People are learning that a healthy turtle population attracts tourists, who bring money to the area. "When the people understand that they can benefit from the turtles, they want to help the turtles," Salazar told TFK.

### ACROSS THE SEA

Scientists hope to hatch similar success stories around the world. Wallace J. Nichols has studied the sea turtle populations of Mexico since 1992. He says that Mexico's program is helping to unite researchers across vast stretches of ocean. "Seeing the success at La Escobilla inspires people working at other projects," Nichols told TFK.



From TIME FOR KIDS, November 5, 2004

Use the story and map to answer the questions below.

- .....
1. What body of water borders Mexico to the west?  
Ⓐ Gulf of Mexico  
Ⓑ Pacific Ocean  
Ⓒ Atlantic Ocean  
Ⓓ Caribbean Sea
  2. This story is mostly about  
Ⓐ saving sea turtles.  
Ⓑ the life cycle of a sea turtle.  
Ⓒ Mexico's endangered species.  
Ⓓ scientists who study sea turtles.
  3. Sea turtle survival is threatened by all of the following except  
Ⓐ poaching.  
Ⓑ fishing nets.  
Ⓒ pollution.  
Ⓓ tourism.
  4. The expression **bouncing back** in paragraph 5 means  
Ⓐ moving away.  
Ⓑ jumping up and down.  
Ⓒ recovering.  
Ⓓ coming home.
  5. Which statement is a fact?  
Ⓐ More agents should patrol beaches to protect sea turtles from poachers.  
Ⓑ It is important to educate children and adults about sea turtle protection.  
Ⓒ In 1990, sea turtle hunting was banned in Mexico.  
Ⓓ The life cycle of an olive ridley sea turtle is fascinating.

6. Immediately after laying their eggs, adult sea turtles  
Ⓐ return to the ocean.  
Ⓑ build their nests.  
Ⓒ cover the eggs with sand.  
Ⓓ search for food.

7. How can residents of La Escobilla benefit from helping the sea turtles?

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8. Find two steps that have been taken to protect sea turtles in Mexico. Underline the steps in the article.

9. What else could be done to help protect sea turtles? Write one suggestion.

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10. Do you think protecting sea turtles is important? Explain your answer.

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Read the story. Then answer the questions below.

# Daddy Day Care

At the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, in Kenya, wild savanna baboons spend their days lounging next to elephants, antelope and buffalo. Mother baboons groom their babies and protect them.

But baboon moms aren't on the job alone. This month, scientists made the surprising announcement that many baboon dads also recognize and care for their young. Researchers had assumed that male baboons didn't know which babies were theirs, because the males live in groups and have several partners. A three-year study shows that baboon dads recognize, and often protect, their offspring.

## LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

With their sharp teeth, male baboons are "designed to be dangerous," says Joan Silk, a professor who worked on the study. "But they can be sweet with infants." What's more, the researchers found that dads don't monkey around about defending their own. They rush to protect their offspring in fights more often than they help other baboon babies. "Life is pretty tough for young baboons," says Jason Buchan, who was also involved in the study. When the fathers are on the scene, it decreases the babies' chances of getting hurt. The scientists believe some of the ways the male baboons identify their young are by appearance and smell. Silk is thrilled that animal dads show similarities to human dads. Says Silk: "It's always fun to find out that animals are smarter than you thought!"

From TIME FOR KIDS, September 26, 2003

1. The author wrote this article to
  - (A) inform the reader about a new scientific finding on baboon dads.
  - (B) entertain the reader with stories about baboons.
  - (C) persuade the reader to learn more about baboons.
  - (D) tell the reader where baboons can be found in the wild.
2. Why had scientists assumed that male baboons didn't know which babies were theirs?
  - (A) Male baboons are considered to be dangerous.
  - (B) Male baboons live in groups and have several partners.
  - (C) Male baboons have poor eyesight.
  - (D) Male baboons are less social than female baboons.
3. According to the article, scientists think that male baboons identify their young by
  - (A) appearance.
  - (B) smell.
  - (C) sound.
  - (D) both A and B
4. For how long did the scientists study baboon dads?
  - (A) 75 days
  - (B) one month
  - (C) three weeks
  - (D) three years
5. Do you think it is important to study animal relationships? Explain your answer.
 

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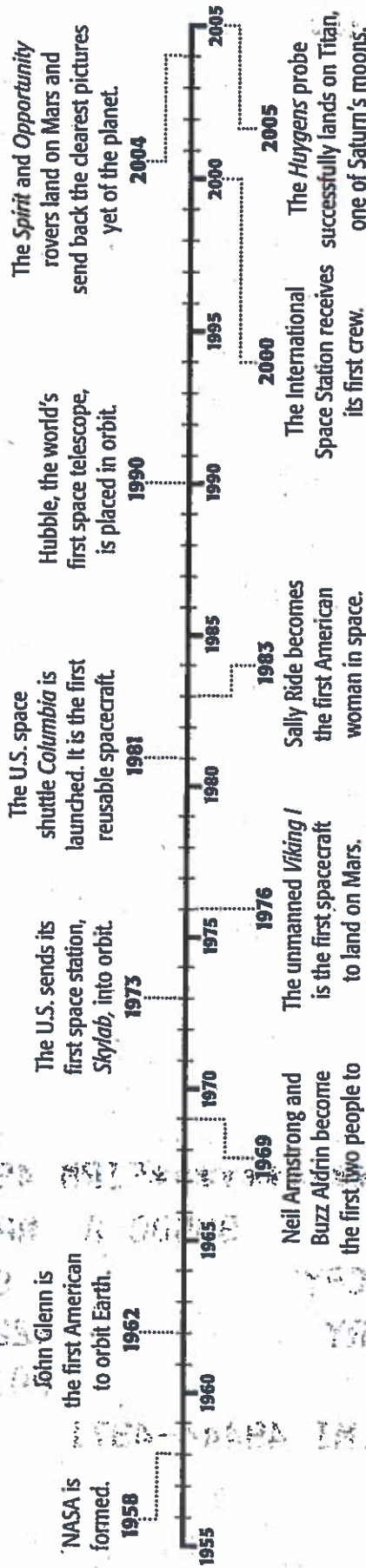


Name .....

Date .....

Read the time line to learn more about some of the big events in the history of U.S. space exploration. Then answer the questions below.

# The U.S. Explores Space



From TIME FOR KIDS, April 29, 2005

- Who was the first American to orbit Earth?  
 (A) Neil Armstrong (B) Buzz Aldrin  
 (C) John Glenn (D) Sally Ride
- As part of the Soviet space program, Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman to travel to space. She is not mentioned on this time line because  
 (A) she is less famous than Sally Ride.  
 (B) she was not part of the U.S. space program.  
 (C) she did not walk on the moon.  
 (D) she only traveled to space once.
- Which event on the time line do you think is the most important? Explain your answer on the back of this page.
- How many years after NASA was formed did the first people walk on the moon?  
 (A) 15 (B) 14 (C) 11 (D) 9
- Which of the following statements is an opinion?  
 (A) It is important to explore space.  
 (B) NASA was formed in 1958.  
 (C) Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first two people to walk on the moon.  
 (D) Hubble was the world's first space telescope.