

# SEA TURTLE NESTING JOURNEY

## Field Observation Tracking Chart

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

STATUS	NESTING STAGE	KEY INDICATORS & OBSERVATIONS
	<b>1. Emergence</b> Exiting the surf zone	Check for "v-shaped" tracks in the sand. Note time of arrival.
	<b>2. Site Selection</b> Moving above high-tide line	Searching for suitable dry sand. May involve "false crawls."
	<b>3. Body Pitting</b> Clearing surface sand	Front flippers rotate to clear away dry debris and cool sand.
	<b>4. Digging Egg Chamber</b> Rear flipper excavation	Precision digging of a flask-shaped hole using rear flippers.
	<b>5. Oviposition</b> Egg laying process	The turtle enters a trance-like state. Estimate egg count if visible.
	<b>6. Covering &amp; Camouflage</b> Securing the nest	Rear flippers pack sand; front flippers fling sand to hide site.
	<b>7. Return to Sea</b> Departure	Turtle moves back toward the ocean. Record final departure time.

Note: Maintain a respectful distance of at least 30 feet. Do not use white flashlights or flash photography.