

## Activity Sheet No. 14

### **Egg Math**

#### General Information

- ✿ Queen conch exhibit internal fertilization, after which the female spawns thousands of eggs in a long tubular egg mass.
- ✿ Large egg masses may take up to 36 hours to lay. Tube strands of from 70 to 120 feet may be produced at a rate of five feet per hour.
- ✿ One egg mass can hold between 310,000 and 750,000 eggs. These egg masses are covered with sand to provide camouflage and the larvae emerge after around 4-5 days.
- ✿ A single female will spawn between 6 and 10 times during one season.
- ✿ Only 0.1% off the eggs laid, will become a reproductive adult (3-4 years old) in the wild.

#### Now answer the following questions:

- ✿ How many conch eggs are produced your chosen country each spawning season?

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- ✿ Given the survival rate, how many of those eggs will become spawning adults?

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- ✿ If an adult conch can reproduce for 15 years, how many eggs can one female produce during her reproductive life?

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- ✿ Why is it necessary for a conch to produce so many eggs?

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#### Sources:

[http://www.arkive.org/species/GES/invertebrates\\_marine/Strombus\\_gigas/more\\_info.html](http://www.arkive.org/species/GES/invertebrates_marine/Strombus_gigas/more_info.html)

<http://international.fws.gov/queen%20conch/queen%20conch%20facts.html>