

THE GREAT EGGCASE HUNT

Skate Life Cycle

3

A tiny split opens along the top of the eggcase and the young skate wriggles free as a miniature version of the adults.

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The young inside the egg will develop, sometimes for over a year but this depends on species.

The process of laying eggs that hatch outside the female is known as oviparity.

Eggcases are made from collagen and keratin, which are the same substances that human hair and fingernails are made from.

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Empty eggcases are picked up by currents and carried inshore.

Once empty, eggcases are known as mermaid's purses.

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The young skate will continue to grow.

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When old enough, the now adult skate will produce her own eggs and the process is repeated.

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Eggs are laid by the female skate on the seabed.

You can find eggcases along UK beaches and use the identification guide to work out what species they come from. Send your findings to the Shark Trust's Great Eggcase Hunt for recording.