Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

A **preposition** is a word that shows how a noun or a pronoun is related to other words in the same sentence. A preposition begins a group of words called a **prepositional phrase.** At the end of the phrase is a noun or a pronoun called the **object of the preposition.** A prepositional phrase can be used to tell *where, when, how,* or *which one.*

- **Preposition:** The turtle buried its eggs in the sand.
- **Prepositional phrase:** in the sand
- **Object of the preposition:** sand

Common Prepositions

about	around	between	into	to
above	at	by	of	under
across	behind	for	on	upon
after	below	from	over	with
along	beneath	in	through	without

A Write each sentence. Underline the prepositional phrase. Then circle the object of the preposition.

1. Crabs scoot behind a rock.
2. Tropical fish swim in schools.
3. Along the sandy bottom crawls a snail.
4. Is that an octopus darting through the water?
5. Many creatures live beneath the waves.

B Each sentence below contains two prepositional phrases. Write the prepositional phrases.

1. Sea turtles face many dangers on land and in the sea.
2. Turtles at sea can die in fishing nets.
3. Eggs in a beach nest may be destroyed by other animals.
4. People in cars drive over beach nests and crush the eggs.
5. Birds with sharp beaks catch baby turtles on the sand.
6. The bright lights of beach resorts may confuse baby turtles as they head for the sea.
7. People around the world protect sea turtles from danger.

C Add a prepositional phrase of your own to each sentence. Write the new sentences.

8. Many kinds of fish live _____.
9. Tito likes to collect shells _____.
10. Clumps of seaweed float _____.
11. Waves crash loudly _____.
12. The setting sun cast a glow _____.
13. Do all turtles live _____?
14. Sea turtles build their nests _____.
15. Can turtles survive _____?
16. Turtles are not always safe _____.

Review and Assess

Write each sentence. Put one line under the prepositional phrase. Put two lines under the object of the preposition.

1. The young dog ran along the beach.
2. She barked at the gulls.
3. The gulls calmly floated on the water.
4. They ignored the dog with the loud bark.
5. Soon the dog grew bored and ran through the grass.

Write the letter of the preposition that completes each sentence.

6. Some fish swim _____ other fish to find food.

   A because **C** with
   B of **D** none

7. A fish may find food _____ the surface of the water.

   A near **C** of
   B without **D** after

8. Other fish search for food _____ a reef.

   A since **C** happily
   B around **D** to

9. Seals like to lie _____ rocks in the sun.

   A on **C** warm
   B after **D** swim

10. When the seals get hot, they dive _____ the sea.

   A gentle **C** above
   B listen **D** into