

Get to Know Sea Turtles



Objectives:

- Students will utilize research skills for the purpose of gathering data on a sea turtle species.
- Students will introduce an assigned species of sea turtle to other class members.

Grade Level: 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

Subject Area: Science

Lesson Duration: Two-three 40 minute class periods



Teacher Information:

This lesson will introduce students to the basic information about the 7 species of sea turtles. The main goal of this lesson is for students to learn about sea turtles in enough detail to differentiate between the species. They will be researching their general characteristics, size, habitat, nesting habitats, IUCN status, migration information, population trends, and interesting facts.

Materials:

- Books, printed resources, or computers with internet access
- Papers, markers, glue (if projects are not computer generated)
- All About Sea Turtles Worksheet (provided)

Warm-up (5 minutes):

- Begin the lesson by asking the students if they have ever seen or learned about sea turtles. Allow a few volunteers to share their experiences. Where do they live? Have they seen one before? What do they eat?

Research A Sea Turtle (80 minutes):

- Show visual aids or posters displaying the seven species of sea turtles (Green, Loggerhead, Leatherback, Hawksbill, Kemp's Ridley, Olive Ridley, and Flatback). Discuss each species briefly, highlighting their size, distinctive features, and preferred habitats.
- Split the students into 7 groups and assign each group one of the 7 species of sea turtles (Green, Loggerhead, Leatherback, Hawksbill, Kemp's Ridley, Olive Ridley, and Flatback).
- Introduce the idea of using technology to get to know a species of turtles. Ask what types of technology they use to allow others to get to know them.
- Tell students that they will be creating a poster, website, PowerPoint, etc. to teach their classmates about their assigned species. The students should do this in a creative way to draw their classmate's interest to their assigned species. Teachers should outline the requirements for the project.
- Students should fill in the All About Sea Turtles Worksheet as they complete their research. They should find out the following information about their sea turtle species: scientific name, size, weight, diet, IUCN status, habitat, nesting habitat, migration information, population trends, and interesting facts. The websites in the resources section of this lesson can be helpful resources for the students.
- Once students have completed the research about their species, they should create an interesting presentation to share the information they learned with their classmates. These presentations can be posters, PowerPoint, etc. You can allow students to be creative or instruct them on how you would like them to display their information.
- Have students present their sea turtle species with the rest of the class.

Conclusion (5 minutes):

- Invite students to share one thing they found most interesting or surprising about sea turtles.
- Express the importance of taking care of our oceans and the need to protect sea turtles and their habitats.

Extensions:

- Using a world map, have students plot the migration pattern for their assigned species.
- Use sea turtle migrations to learn about other cultures. What is it like where the turtles nest? Which cultures use ocean resources where the turtles will pass by?
- Use the turtle migration patterns to study oceans. Students can learn about currents, temperature, salt concentrations, etc. This can then be connected to their impact on marine organisms.
- Invite a local marine biologist or sea turtle conservationist to speak to the class in person or virtually.
- Organize a field trip to a local aquarium or sea turtle rescue center.
- Encourage students to write stories or poems inspired by sea turtles and their conservation efforts.

Assessment:

- Review the All About Sea Turtles Worksheet to assess the research completed by the students.
- Evaluate group presentations on creativity and accuracy of information presented.



Resources:

- **Flatback:**

- www.seaturtleweek.com/flatback-day
- www.conserveturtles.org/information-about-sea-turtles-flatback-sea-turtle/
- www.seeturtles.org/flatback-turtle

- **Green:**

- www.seaturtleweek.com/green-turtle-day
- www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/green-turtle
- www.conserveturtles.org/information-sea-turtles-green-sea-turtle/
- www.seeturtles.org/green-sea-turtle

- **Hawksbill:**

- www.seaturtleweek.com/hawksbill-day
- www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/hawksbill-turtle
- www.seeturtles.org/hawksbill-turtles
- www.conserveturtles.org/information-about-sea-turtles-hawksbill-sea-turtle/

- **Kemp's Ridley:**

- www.seaturtleweek.com/kemps-ridley-day
- www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/kemps-ridley-turtle
- www.conserveturtles.org/information-about-sea-turtles-kemps-ridley-sea-turtle/
- www.seeturtles.org/kemps-ridley-turtles

- **Olive Ridley:**

- www.seaturtleweek.com/olive-ridley-day
- www.conserveturtles.org/information-about-sea-turtles-olive-ridley-sea-turtle/
- www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/olive-ridley-turtle
- www.seeturtles.org/olive-ridley-turtles

- **Leatherback:**

- www.seaturtleweek.com/leatherback-day
- www.seeturtles.org/leatherback-turtle
- www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/leatherback-turtle
- www.conserveturtles.org/information-about-sea-turtles-leatherback-sea-turtle/

- **Loggerhead:**

- www.seaturtleweek.com/loggerhead-day
- www.seeturtles.org/loggerhead-turtles
- www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/loggerhead-turtle
- www.conserveturtles.org/information-sea-turtles-loggerhead-sea-turtle/

These materials are provided by SEE Turtles. SEE Turtles helps save sea turtles through conservation tours, supporting important nesting beaches, working to end demand for turtleshell, helping clean up plastic waste from turtle habitats, educating people about how to help these animals, and promoting inclusivity in the turtle community. For lesson plans, fundraising ideas, online presentations, and field trips, please visit www.seeturtles.org/schools. For more information, please contact Brad Nahill, SEE Turtles Director, at brad@seeturtles.org or 5800-215-0378.



Name: _____

Date: _____

All About Sea Turtles Worksheet

What is your sea turtle species? _____

• Scientific Name: _____

• Size: _____

• Weight: _____

• IUCN Status: _____

• Diet: _____

• Habitat: _____

• Nesting Habitat: _____

• Migration Information: _____

• Population Trends: _____

• Interesting Facts: _____

