



Overview:

Sea turtles are perhaps the oldest animals on the planet, having been around for over 100 million years, but the modern world can be hard on them. They are threatened by fisheries impacts, coastal development, direct take of turtles and eggs, pollution and pathogens and global warming. Nearly a decade ago, Dr. Terry Norton had a vision and in 2007, the Georgia Sea Turtle Center became a reality. The objective is to rescue these endangered nomads of the sea, and educate people about saving them. Through sea turtle rehabilitation, research and education programs, the Center is designed to increase awareness of habitat and wildlife conservation challenges, promote responsibility for ecosystem health and empower individuals to act locally, regionally, and globally to protect the environment. Students will learn more about sea turtles and the challenges they face through a variety of informative and interactive activities.

Source for photos: http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/photos/sea-turtles/hawksbill-turtle_image.html

Grade Level: Range from grade 2-7

Subjects: Cross curricular – Language arts, Science, Math, Art

Standards: Referenced at websites in the activities

Classroom Activities:

1. Activity #1: Sea Turtle tracking: Lessons in Saving an Endangered Species (can be done in any of the grades)

- Ask students if they remember what the sea turtle that was released into the ocean had attached to its back. Explain to them about tracking devices. Data from the progress of Sea Turtle Conservation Programs is gathered through the use of these devices. There are many sites on the web that allow the tracking of sea turtles and most of these sites offer educational guides to assist teachers and students in their tracking efforts. Included is a lesson plan from Education World as well as additional sites for tracking.
- http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson111.shtml
- <http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/> Seaturtle.org's Satellite Tracking Program

- <http://www.cccturtle.org/seaturtletracking.php> - Caribbean Conservation Corporation's Tracking Education Program

2. Activity #2: Online Sea Turtle Activities for Lower Elementary Grades

- http://www.cdli.ca/CITE/st_activity.htm
- This site contains five activities with links to activity sheets on sea turtles. They are designed to accompany an on-line study of sea turtles with links to specific Web pages.
- Students can then write and illustrate their own sea turtle story taking their turtles from the nest to the ocean.



3. Activity #3: Sea Turtle Hatchling Orientation from Nest to Ocean

- This site originates from Penn State University." The purpose of the classroom activities included is to have students gather information concerning those sea turtle conservation efforts and research initiatives occurring primarily in the United States and, secondarily, related efforts and initiatives occurring throughout the world. Students will work collaboratively, use their imaginations and creativity to solve problems, and learn to take action." This is an excellent site for following the progression of events from the nest to the ocean.
- <https://teamworks.campuses.psu.edu/psu/lv/chance/module03/activities.htm>

4. Activity 4: Turtle Trails: An introduction to loggerhead turtles (designed for grades 6-8)

- All activities at this site were created to introduce students to information about loggerhead sea turtles. The activities were developed for grades 6 and above with an emphasis on making them interdisciplinary. Some activities focus on math and science skills while others focus on the arts and the student's imaginations.
- <http://www.ncaquariums.com/turtletrails/activities/>

Additional Resources

http://www.seaturtle.org/documents/Educators_Guide.pdf

This is an extensive educator's guide provided by the Wave Foundation which is a nonprofit, independent, educational foundation at the Newport Aquarium, created to further the Aquarium's efforts in educating communities about marine life and the conservation of natural resources and habitats. This Educator's Guide is a resource designed to connect grade school children to the ocean using sea turtles as the ambassadors. Through these charismatic reptiles, the guide will serve to educate students about the biology and life history of sea turtles as well as the conservation issues surrounding them. This can be used as a unit, or the activities can be used individually.

<http://www.cccturtle.org/educators.php> Caribbean Conservation Corporation's Education Corner. "Through the educational components of this website you can learn all about the different species of sea turtles, learn about the global importance of sea turtle nesting beaches, find some activities for kids, and even follow the migration of a sea turtle as she swims from her nesting beach to her feeding area."

<http://www.cccturtle.org/turtletides.php> *Turtle Tides* is a section of the Caribbean Conservation Corporation's site devoted to kids! Here you will find links to games, turtle heroes, activities, artwork, information to download and past Turtle Tides newsletters

<http://www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org/> Georgia Sea Turtle Center

<http://www.seaturtle.org/multimedia/> Sea Turtle Podcasts - Multimedia recordings from the world of marine turtle research and conservation.

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/photos/sea-turtles.html> Sea turtle images provided by National Geographic

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_w7000_0040.pdf Sea Turtle Word Search

http://www.defenders.org/wildlife_and_habitat/wildlife/sea_turtles.php Defenders of Wildlife

<http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/info-books/sea-turtle/index.htm> Sea World's info book about sea turtles

<http://seaturtlestatus.org/> Site about the state of the world's sea turtles