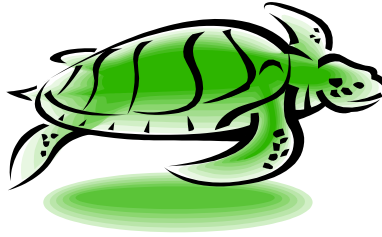


Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina



SEA TURTLES

Try-It, Badge, IPP Program

Girl Scout Brownies: Complete 4 activities including the starred “Discover” activity and 1 “Take Action” activity.

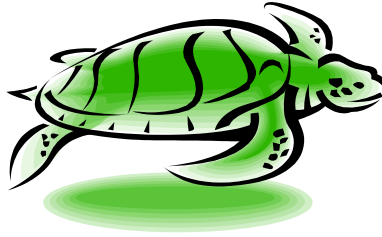
Girl Scout Juniors: Complete 6 activities including the starred “Discover” activity and 1 “Take Action” activity.

Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors: Complete 8 activities including the starred “Discover” activity and 2 “Take Action” activities.

Discover:

- 1)* Discover the seven species of sea turtles.
- 2) Discover how the green and loggerhead sea turtles got their name.
- 3) Discover which sea turtle is the largest and which one is the smallest.
- 4) Discover what a sea turtle nest looks like.
- 5) Discover what sea turtle tracks look like and how to tell the difference between tracks leading to a nest and a false crawl.
- 6) Discover which sea turtle dives the deepest, travels the furthest and grows the largest?
- 7) Discover if sea turtles can get sick. What can be done to help them get better?
- 8) Discover what spacer eggs are and which sea turtle lays them in their nest.
- 9) Discover which species of sea turtles visit the South Carolina coastline.
- 10) Write to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Marine Turtle Conservation Program and request information on sea turtles at Post Office Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422. Read the information you receive with your troop.

Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina



SEA TURTLES

Try-It, Badge, IPP Program

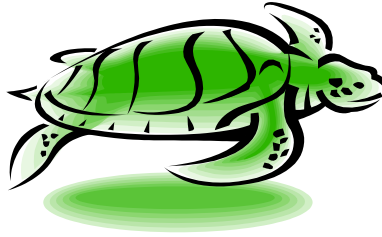
Connect:

- 1) Make a list of threats (both natural and manmade) that may harm sea turtles. Brainstorm ideas that can help minimize these threats.
- 2) Find out what sea turtles eat. Do all sea turtles eat the same food? Do we eat some of the same foods?
- 3) Find out how many eggs there can be in a clutch. How does the hatchling get out of its' shell? Can the weather help determine the sex of the hatchlings? (I don't believe this will be a problem. The younger girls who might do the program will have adults helping them out.)
- 4) Find out what the hatchlings eat before they make their way out of the nest.
- 5) Learn what the typical incubation time is for a sea turtle nest.
- 6) What can a land turtle do that a sea turtle cannot do?

Take Action:

- 1) Volunteer at a state park sea turtle watch program.
- 2) Watch a sea turtle nest relocation and/or a sea turtle inventory.
- 3) Volunteer with a beach clean up project.
- 4) Volunteer at a facility dedicated to helping sea turtles.
- 5) Create a display for your school, library or community center about Sea Turtles. Emphasize what we can all do to help save and protect these special animals and environments.

Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina



SEA TURTLES

Try-It, Badge, IPP Program

Helpful websites and books

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/turtles/site.htm>

<http://www.scaquarium.org>

<http://www.cccturtle.org/sea-turtle-information.php>

<http://seaturtle.org>

<http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/info-books/sea-turtle/index.htm>

Ancona, George. Turtle Watch. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1987.

Kalman, Bobbie. Endangered Sea Turtles. New York: Crabtree Pub. Co., 2004.

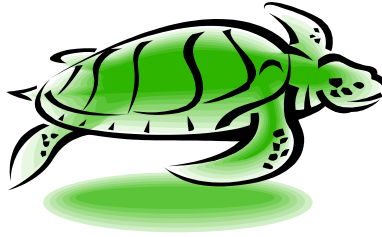
Rathmell, Donna. Carolina's Story: Sea Turtles get sick too!. Mt Pleasant, SC: Sylvan Dell Pub., 2005

Swinburne, Stephen R. Turtle Tide: The Ways of Sea Turtles. Honesdale, Pa: Boyds Mill Press, 2005.

Spotila, James R. Sea Turtles: A Complete Guide to Their Biology, Behavior, and Conservation. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004.

By: Bridget Lee Young

Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina



SEA TURTLES

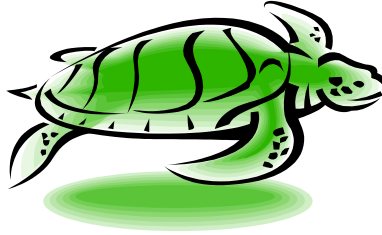
Try-It, Badge, IPP Program

Help Sheet:

Discover:

1. Green sea turtle
 2. Loggerhead sea turtle
 3. Kemp's ridley sea turtle
 4. Olive ridley sea turtle
 5. Hawksbill sea turtle
 6. Flatback sea turtle
 7. Leatherback sea turtle
2. The green sea turtle gets its name from what it eats. The sea grasses and algae give their fat a greenish color. Loggerhead turtles get their name from their exceptionally large heads, it looks like a log floating in the water.
3. Largest - leatherback, Smallest - Kemp's ridley and its cousin olive ridley.
4. Like an upside down light bulb.
5. Turtles that lay eggs dig a body pit and throw sand in all directions to disguise their nest site, so there will be a large area of disturbed sand somewhere along the tracks. Turtles that false crawl typically don't stop to dig, so their tracks continue from the water up the beach and back to the water without interruption.
6. Leatherback
7. Yes, sea turtles can get sick. They can be x-rayed, have surgery, and even be given medications such as antibiotics, vitamins and laxatives.
8. Leatherback
9. Loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, leatherback and the green sea turtles.

Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina



SEA TURTLES

Try-It, Badge, IPP Program

Help Sheet:

Connect:

1. Manmade threats include loss of habitat, bright lights during nesting and hatching season, boat propellers, entanglement in or ingestion of plastics, getting caught in fishing gear, meat and eggs for food, skin for leather, and shells for jewelry. Natural threats include predation and weather. Natural threats of hatchlings include fire ants, raccoons, ghost crabs, birds and fish. Sharks are the primary natural threat to larger sea turtles. Also cold-stunning, storms/hurricanes (erosion of beaches, loss of eggs).

2. Loggerheads' and ridleys' - eat hard-shelled prey such as crabs and whelks and sometimes jellyfish.

Green sea turtles - eat sea grasses and algae.

Hawksbills - eat sponges and tunicates.

Leatherbacks - eat jellyfish

Flatbacks - eat fish, sea cucumbers, prawns, jellyfish and seagrass.

3. Depending on the species a female can lay 50 to 200 round eggs the size of a ping pong ball or larger.

Hatchlings use a temporary egg tooth to help break open the shell. Lower nest temperatures produce more males; higher temperatures produce more females. (Remember the saying "Hot Chicks, Cool Dudes.")

4. They have a yolk sack for food. It may take three to seven days to dig their way to the surface.

5. The incubation time for most species is 45 to 70 days.

6. A sea turtle cannot pull its head or flippers into its shell.