



# SCUTE'S SONG

## TIME & AUDIENCE LEVEL

- 30—90 Minutes
- 4—8th Grade

## VOCABULARY

- Poetry
- Limerick
- Haiku
- Verses
- Choruses
- Bridges
- Scute
- Carapace
- Rhamphotheca
- Hydrodynamic
- Ecosystem
- Marine Debris
- One Health

## MATERIALS

- Computer or paper, pen/pencil
- Musical instrument if available



## SUMMARY

Many people connect strongly with art, making it an effective way to spread conservation messages. Through this activity students will practice their writing skills in a fun way by composing a song or poem with environment and sea turtle related vocabulary words.

## OBJECTIVES

- Students will connect art with conservation
- Students will review different types of poems
- Students will practice writing the elements of a song

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Descriptive writing and music are a great ways to convey a message and express feeling. One type of descriptive writing is **poetry** (artist writing, that attempts to stir a reader's imagination or emotions by choosing and arranging language for its meaning, sound, and rhythm). There are many types of poems to choose from such as limericks and haikus. A **limerick** poem is five-lines with the first, second and fifth lines longer than the third and fourth. The first, second, and fifth lines rhyme with each other, while the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other. A **haiku** poem is a three-lines with 17 syllables. The first line has five syllables, the second has seven syllables, and the third line has five syllables. You can also choose to write a song which is a poem set to music. There are three basic elements to a song: the verse, the chorus, and the bridge. **Verses** tell the story while building to the chorus. The **chorus** releases the tension of the verses, being louder and simpler. The **bridge** of songs connects verses and choruses with a new vibe.

Example free-form poem:

Scute is a plate on a sea turtle's back, that's the carapace to protect it from an attack

It's made of spine, ribs, and keratin, but it's way too flat for it to hide in

It's streamlined to help it go real fast, sees a predator and takes off like The Flash

Sea turtles are just one part of the ecosystem, a community of all sorts of organisms

### CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

- Can art inspire positive change?
- In what ways could different forms of art be used to help sea turtles and other wildlife?

### GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

- EELAGSE1RL4
- ELAGSE2RL4
- ELAGSE6SL5
- ELAGSE6L3
- ELAGSE7RL5
- ELAGSE7RL7
- ELAGSE7RI3
- ELAGSE7RI7

### REFERENCES/RESOURCES

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvgI082xkxY>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXe7Rx3w9ro>

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Plants, animals, and fungi too, they all play a part to help me and you

Ecosystems are always there to provide us with food, water, and air

One common threat is marine debris, ocean trash that's floating free

We are the cause of trash in the water, that harms all animals...even the otters

So be careful with your plastic use, refuse it when you can, and if not, reuse

This will help keep the ecosystems healthy, and that will keep us strong and stealthy.

### **WARM UP/INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY**

Ask the students to think about some of their favorite artwork, whether it be a painting, a movie, a poem, or a song. Next, challenge them to find a poem or song about the environment/wildlife conservation. Do you think this inspires people to make changes to help the environment?

### **ACTIVITY PROCEDURES**

Explain the positive impact that art can have on expressing the message of wildlife conservation. Ask the students to create a poem, limerick, haiku, or song to help us spread the word about conservation. Also, challenge the students to define vocabulary words related to the environment or sea turtles. Some example vocabulary words are provided below. Comment on our Facebook or Instagram page, or send us an email at [gstceducation@jekyllisland.com](mailto:gstceducation@jekyllisland.com), with your finished product!

### **Example Vocabulary Words**

Scute: a thickened keratin plate

Carapace: the upper shell of a turtle

Rhamphotheca: keratin layer of the beak

Hydrodynamic: motion of fluids and forces in motion

Ecosystem: community of organisms and their environment

Marine Debris: man-made trash that finds its way to the water/ocean

One Health: interconnections between people, animals, plants, and environments