



AmeriCorps

GIVE THANKS TO TURTLES

TIME & AUDIENCE LEVEL

- 1 hour
- 3rd –4th Grade

SETTING/ACTIVITY PREP

Indoors, or outdoors if weather is favorable, with a flat working surface for the child to cut and glue paper.

Activity Prep

Read over the Background information and Wrap Up.

Print copies of the Give Thanks to Turtles Worksheets.

MATERIALS

- Printable paper circle
- Printable leaf design
- Give Thanks To Turtle worksheet
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or Crayons
- *Optional* pinecones and pine straw

EXTENSIONS & MODIFICATIONS

- Scavenge for large leaves outside that can replace the printed leaves
- Print multiple pages of the leaf design so the child can decorate extra leaves to fill any blank spots on the wreath.

SUMMARY

Wildlife, especially turtle species, are very important to the environment and humans. This activity will bring awareness to all the ways they help us and why we should be thankful to them.

OBJECTIVES

- The child will identify at least three reasons humans should be thankful for sea turtles
- The child will identify one problem that would arise if sea turtles go extinct.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sea turtles are indicators for healthy ocean ecosystems. The presence or absence from an area can indicate an imbalance. Many sea turtle species are keystones, meaning other species of animals depend on sea turtles to fill certain roles in the food web. The absence of sea turtles can cause a chain reaction of negative environmental impacts.

On land, the remaining eggshells that are left behind when hatchlings move to the water is important food for dune- stabilizing plants. These plants have roots that hold beach sand in place, so dunes can act as a defensive wall when large storms pass over the island. This protects all of the plants and animals on the inside of the island and further inland. To ensure that our oceans and coastal areas are safe and healthy for animals and humans, it is important that we protect our sea turtles and recognize all the positive ways they help us.

WRAP UP/CONSERVATION MESSAGE

Using less plastic, buying sustainability caught seafood, and collecting litter are all ways to help protect these special animals. Without sea turtles, the land and sea would look a lot different.

ACTIVITY PROCEDURES

1. Using the worksheet on page 32 decide which boxes have reasons to be thankful for sea turtles and which boxes are not.
2. Ask the child to cut out the boxes that are reasons to be thankful, the leaves, and circle.
3. Glue the leaves onto the paper O to create a wreath.
4. As desired, add collected natural items from outside.



What Do Turtles Do?



Sea Turtles play an important role in the ocean.
They help plants, animals and even humans.

AmeriCorps

Read over each box below. Which boxes show why we should be thankful for sea turtles? Once you have chosen, cut out the boxes that have helpful turtles!

HINT: There are 6 ways that sea turtles are helpful! Can you find them all?

Sea turtles live in the ocean. They tell us if the ocean is healthy. Healthy oceans give us food to eat and places to play.	Green sea turtles eat seagrass. Munching grass keeps the ocean clean and safe for fish and crabs.	Sea turtles eat too many donuts so there is not enough left for humans.
Sea turtles like to collect sea shells from the beach. They make it hard for humans to find beautiful shells.	Sea turtles teach us lessons. They inspire us to make art and give us jobs. Veterinarians, engineers, scientists, and teachers learn from sea turtles.	Protecting sea turtles by creating new turtle-safe inventions helps protect animals and their homes. Protecting the ocean protects us.
Sea turtle eggshells left after baby turtles hatch are food for plants in the dunes. Dunes help protect us from storms.	Sea turtles like going to the movies, but they are so big they take up a lot of room. Other sea creatures cannot watch because the turtles are	Hawksbill sea turtles eat sponges on ocean reefs. Hawksbills make room for corals to grow by eating the fast-growing sponges.



Give Thanks To Turtles
Printable Leaf and Wreath Shapes
(2 Pages)



AmeriCorps



