



Sea Turtles

Summary: Students learn about the 8 different types of sea turtles through a presentation and video. They learn threats to the sea turtle populations and ways to protect them through a game. Students learn sea turtle classification then use a dichotomous key to determine unknown sea turtles.

Background Information:

See attached PowerPoint presentation for Background Information.

Materials:

- computer
- data projector
- video “The Reptiles – Turtles & Tortoises” – by PBS Nature
- Project WILD activity guide for “Turtle Hurdles”
- 6 orange cones
- 2 hula hoops
- roles cards (see “Turtle Hurdles” in Project WILD)
- clothespins for pinning roles onto students’ clothing

Set-Up:

- Setup data projector and computer – make sure connections are secure
- Check video for location of desired segment
- Construct role cards prior to playing “Turtle Hurdles” game
- Gather 6 cones and 2 hula hoops from Physical Education teachers
- Find a large indoor or outdoor area to play “Turtle Hurdles”

Procedure:

The instructor will teach students about the 8 types of sea turtles through a PowerPoint presentation. Following the presentation, students will view a video about turtles and tortoises. To learn about threats and conservation efforts, students will then play the game “Turtle Hurdles” from Project WILD. Finally, students will test their skills by identifying and naming 8 unknown sea turtles.

Grade Level: Middle or High School

Goal: To learn strategies which protect and preserve endangered sea turtles around the world

Key Concepts: endangered species, conservation, sea turtle biology

Objectives: Upon completion of this lesson, students will:

- 1) Learn the biology of the sea turtle, a reptile.
- 2) Learn about conservation efforts for sea turtles.
- 3) Strategize ways they can help preserve sea turtles in WI.

Teaching Location: Classroom and outdoors

Lesson Time:
Presentation - 30 minutes
Video – 60 minutes
Game – 45 minutes
Quiz – 15 minutes

Subject Areas for Infusion: Science, Environmental Education

Standards:

Science
F.12.1, F.12.5, H.12.4

Environmental Education
B.12.5, B.12.6, C.12.1., E.12.1

Vocabulary

Endangered species: a species threatened with extinction

Conservation: planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect

Introduction

Prior to this lesson, students receive an overview of reptile characteristics and characteristics of the 4 orders of reptiles through a lecture presentation from the instructor.

Activity 1 – Sea Turtle PowerPoint Presentation

1. Students will view the attached PowerPoint Presentation.
2. Information is taken from the Caribbean Conservation Corporation & Sea Turtle Survival League, located at <http://www.cccturtle.org/contents.htm>.

Activity 2 – “Turtles & Tortoises” video

1. Students will view the 60 minute video, recording key information regarding threats and conservation efforts.

Activity 3 – “Turtle Hurdles” game from Project WILD

1. Draw the playing field on the board.
2. Use the playing field on the board to explain the rules and regulations of the game.
3. Have students think of all possible on-land limiting factors and in-sea limiting factors.
4. Play game outside. Check area for large holes or other hazards and clearly mark prior to play.

Conclusion

Lead a discussion for students to develop ways in which they can help with the conservation efforts for sea turtles.

Assessment

Students will be asked similar questions on a test as those asked in the conclusion discussion. They will also determine the identities of 8 unknown sea turtles, using a dichotomous key.

Adaptations: This lesson could be modified to make it suitable for younger students by shortening the PowerPoint and by creating a simpler sea turtle dichotomous key. The rules of “Turtle Hurdles” can also be simplified for younger students. Students with special needs tend to do well with the game and dichotomous key. If students had physical disabilities, their role in the game could be modified so that they could still be included.

References:

Caribbean Conservation Corporation & Sea Turtle Survival League
<http://www.cccturtle.org/contents.htm>

PBS Nature – “The Reptiles – Turtles & Tortoises” video
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/reptiles/turtles.html>