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**Sea Turtles and Ocean Currents**

**Station 1 : Six Species of Sea Turtles** [**www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/education/turtles.htm** 10](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/education/turtles.htm%20%2010) points

Select a sea turtle species and learn about them by answering the following questions:

We have chosen: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Explain how the turtle species got its name.

2. Describe what they look like. Include information on length and weight.

3. Distribution: Where do they live?

4. Life Expectancy: How long do they live?

5. Diet: What do they eat?

6. How many eggs do they lay?

7. Identify the predators at each stage of their life cycle.

8. Population: How many are there?

9. Explain: Why are they in trouble?

10. What is being done to help these turtles?

11. What can you do to help these turtles?

**Station 2: World Distribution Map** [**http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/info-books/sea-turtle/habitat-&-distribution.htm**](http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/info-books/sea-turtle/habitat-&-distribution.htm) [5](http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/info-books/sea-turtle/habitat-&-distribution.htm%20%205) points

On the website, find the map which shows the world distribution of your turtle species. On the map below, color the areas of the world where your turtle is found.

**Station 3: Sea Turtles: Scientific Classification (CCC Educator’s Guide) 10 points**

Classify the species of sea turtle that you selected

Kingdom:

Phylum:

Class:

Order:

Suborder:

Family:

Genus:

Species:

**Station 4: Anatomy of a Sea Turtle (turtle model and tortoise shell) 5 points**

Examine the sea turtle model and the tortoise shell. Label the parts of the sea turtle diagram

**Station 5: What’s For Lunch (Sea turtle skull and bottle nose dolphin skull) 10 points**

Your teacher will show you the skulls of a dolphin and loggerhead sea turtle. Based on their size, shape, mouth structure and teeth (if any) infer what these marine animals eat. Justify your answer.

**Station 6: Ocean Currents (Maps) 10 points**

After baby sea turtles hatch, they head for the ocean. Using both maps, create a flow chart to show how a loggerhead hatchling could travel from a Sarasota beach to the Sargassso Sea in the Atlantic Ocean. Use the names of specific currents.

**Station 7: Race to the Sea (Board game) 10 points**

Two players play Race to the Sea to learn about the hazards that newly hatched sea turtles face as they leave the nest and head to the surf. How many hatchlings will make it to the sea?

**Instructions:**

**Step1:** Each player selects a color turtle playing piece AND gets 25 sea turtle hatchlings (sea turtle card)

**Step 2:** Roll the di and advance along the course

**Step3:** If you land on a lose turtle/s space, place a red circle on top of the appropriate number of sea turtle hatchlings (sea turtle card)

**Step 4:** When all players reach the ocean, the player with the most remaining baby sea turtles is the winner

**Step 5:** **Sea turtle hatchlings face the following hazards (minimum of 4 hazards)**

1.

2.

3.

4.

**Station 8: Sargasso Sea** [**http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/sargassosea.html**](http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/sargassosea.html) **10 points**

1. Sargassum is a type of seaweed/algae which collects in an area of the Atlantic Ocean known as the Sargasso Sea. Explain why so many animal species live in the Sargasso Sea.

2. What types of food do the sea turtles find in the Sargasso Sea?

3. Infer what keeps the Sargassum from floating away.

**Station 9: Satellite Telemetry (CCC Educator’s Guide) 10 points**

1. Briefly describe why researchers use satellite telemetry to track sea turtles.

2. Draw and label a diagram showing how satellite telemetry works

3. Explain what scientists are able to learn about sea turtles from the satellite data.

**Station 10: Tracking Sea Turtles (**[**www.seaturtle.org**](http://www.seaturtle.org)**) 20 points**

**Marine Laboratory scientists outfitted a number of loggerhead sea turtles with tracking devices in the summer of 2013. Select one of the sea turtles and use real data to determine the path of the sea turtle since its release.**

**Step 1:** Scroll down the menu on the left side of the page to Casey Key Loggerheads 2013 or Mote Marine Lab

**Step 2:** Select the Loggerhead that you would like to track. Double click

Name of the turtle\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gender\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Release Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Release Location \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Step 3:** Follow teacher instructions to access tracking data

**Step 4**: Select three data entries for each month (each entry must have a different latitude/longitude point)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Longitude | Latitude |
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| 24 |  |  |

Step 5: Plot the path that your turtle has taken on the Animal Tracking Map-Gulf of Mexico. Use a different color pencil for each month. Provide a key to show color/month.