Sea Turtle Activity

Grade Level: 5th-6th grade

Summary: Learning about the life history and threats that affect sea turtles can give us a better understanding of how to protect them, whether personally or through an organized network. A hands on activity is preceded by an introduction to sea turtles in Florida, as well as their life history and threats. Students work in groups, acting as members of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN), collecting "data" on carapace measurements, location found, etc.

Program Objectives:

- Students will understand the life cycle of a sea turtle and the associated threats

- Solutions will be proposed for protecting sea turtles and other protected species

- Students will get participate in a role play activity as a member of the sea turtle stranding and salvage network

Concepts Covered:

- Identification of 5 species of sea turtles

- Sea turtle life cycle

- Current threats to sea turtles

- Solutions to the proposed threats

- Sea turtle data collection

Vocabulary: reptile, threatened, endangered, ectothermic, carapace, plastron, scutes, scales, TED, calipers, bycatch, poaching

Procedures: Activity is preceded by an introduction to sea turtles in Florida, as well as their life history and threats. Students work in groups acting as members of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN). A data sheet used by the STSSN is filled out describing the turtle found, location, and circumstances surrounding the discovery of the turtle. Short video of STSSN volunteers in action during a turtle stranding is shown.

Extensions:

Resources:

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