

Loggerhead Sea Turtle Hatching Activity

Grade Level: 7th-10th grade

Summary: A hands on activity is preceded by an introduction to sea turtles in Florida. Students will participate in an activity to demonstrate the threats sea turtles face through life stages. The activity will provide students with an understanding of the reasoning behind the 1 in 1000 survivorship statistic and what humans can do to assist these protected animals.

Program Objectives:

- Students will understand the seven life stages of a sea turtle
- Students will define factors limiting the development and survival of eggs, hatchlings, and adults
- Solutions will be proposed for protecting sea turtles and their habitats

Concepts Covered:

- Sea turtle nesting
- Sea turtle hatching
- Sea turtle life stages
- Threats to sea turtles
- Sea turtle conservation efforts

Vocabulary: reptile, threatened, endangered, nesting, clutch, predation, incubation, hatchlings, survival rate, dessication

Procedures: MarineLab instructor will lead a brief discussion on sea turtle nesting and introduce the idea that only 1 in 1000 sea turtles survive until maturity. Students will then participate in a modeling activity—each student will take eggs from a nest and learn threats sea turtles face throughout each life phase. At the end, the .02% survival rate will be demonstrated. The activity will end with a discussion on sea turtle protection efforts and how students can get involved.

Sources: www.marine-ed.org/bridge/survivor.pdf, www.scientificamerican.com/article/sea-turtles-lost-years-transatlantic-journey-mapped-for-first-time



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