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Activity Guide

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Sea Turtles

ABOUT THE STORY

Where do sea turtles live? What do they eat? What do they travel so far? These questions are answered by the information in *Sea Turtles*. The book also explains why sea turtles are endangered creatures, which have been around for millions of years, to survive for more years to come.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gail Gibbons has written over eighty books for children on topics that ranges from animals to knights to farming. she is the winner of the Washington Post Children's Book Guild Award for her overall contribution to children's nonfiction. She lives in Vermont and Maine.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if any of them have a turtle for a pet. Encourage them to describe interesting things turtles can do, such as pulling their heads and limbs into their shells. Then explain that *Sea Turtles* is a book about the ocean-going giants of the turtle world, sea turtles—turtles that can't hide inside their shell.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What was Archlon?"
- "What does a sea turtle use its flipper to do?"
- "How many kinds of sea turtles are there?"
- "Which is the biggest sea turtle?"
- "Why is it so difficult for baby sea turtles to survive?" (*Draw conclusions*)
- "Name three differences between a sea turtle and a turtle. (*Compare and contrast*)"
- "Which fact about sea turtles did you find most interesting? Why (*Express and support opinions*)"

Vocabulary

Write these vocabulary words on the chalkboard. Have volunteers use the word from the box that best completes each sentence.

plastron vegetarian carapace migrates scutes plankton

- Some sea turtles eat tiny plants and animals called _____.
- The top of the turtle shell is the _____.
- The bottom of the shell is called the _____.
- When a sea turtle _____, it may travel long distances.
- _____ are the turtle's scales.
- Green turtles are _____; they eat only plants.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science, Turtles, Tortoise and Terrapins

Divide children into three groups. Make reference books available so each group can find out about turtles, tortoises, or terrapins. The groups can prepare reports with a descriptions and illustrations. Then the class can compare the three kinds of animals.

Art: Draw a Sea Turtle

Invite children to create a drawing of a sea turtle swimming in the ocean. Encourage them to model their turtles on one of the species in the book and identify it with a caption.

Math: Smallest to Largest

Have children work in pairs to create a sea turtle chart, with the turtles arranged according to size. The chart can include the turtle's name, a picture, and its average weight and length.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Help a Sea Turtle

Children can find out how to help save the sea turtle by visiting this Website: <http://www.turtles.org/helping.htm>. Activities include adopting a turtle, donating to turtle aid, or e-mailing in support of sea turtles. Children can find and download pictures of sea turtles to color at <http://www.turtles.org/colour.htm>.