



Explore Sea Turtles

Visit the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center to learn all about these amazing animals and earn this fun patch.

GUIDELINES: Based on the grid, complete the number of activities for your grade level.

	DISCOVER	CONNECT	TAKE ACTION	ANY ACTIVITY UNDER ANY KEY	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES
Girl Scout Daisy	1	1	1	0	3
Girl Scout Brownie	1	1	1	1	4
Girl Scout Junior	1	1	1	2	5
Girl Scout Cadette	1	1	1	3	6
Girl Scout Senior	1	1	1	4	7
Girl Scout Ambassador	1	1	1	5	8

DISCOVER

- Summarize the characteristics of a reptile. Describe to a fellow scout or leader why a sea turtle is classified as a reptile.
- Sea turtles possess many special characteristics. Draw, label, and/or describe some of these characteristics. Tell a friend why they are important to sea turtles.
- Draw or print a picture of a sea turtle. Label the carapace, lateral scutes, vertebral scutes, flippers, head, tail, and plastron.
- Go to the NOAA's sea turtle website ([fisheries.noaa.gov/sea-turtles](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/sea-turtles)) and learn about the major threats sea turtles face. Identify three threats that are of the most interest to you and describe them to a fellow scout, leader, or family member. Brainstorm ways you could help sea turtles from these threats.
- Sea turtles experience many milestones in their lives. Draw a diagram that outlines the life cycle of a sea turtle and label the many milestones in a sea turtle's life.
- Observe a sea turtle swimming by either visiting an aquarium or watching a documentary.

CONNECT

- Sea turtles only live in certain parts of the world. On a world map, label where each sea turtle species can be found. Discuss why you think each species of sea turtle lives there. Why do you think that location is the perfect habitat?
- People often mistake fresh water turtles for sea turtles. What are the differences between freshwater turtles and sea turtles? What are their similarities? Based on their similarities, why do you think people often mistake the two types of turtles?
- Use a dichotomous key to identify each sea turtle species by its physical characteristics. How do these characteristics make each sea turtle species uniquely adapted for its habitat and lifestyle?
- Sea turtles are marine reptiles. Provide examples of adaptations unique to marine reptiles (sea turtles) that allow them to live in a marine environment.

- Research sea turtle conservation initiatives. How are the initiatives helping to protect them? Create a poster, song, or skit to show how these initiatives are helping sea turtles.
- Sea turtles are often depicted in cultures around the world. Learn a folklore and/or song about sea turtles. In what ways does folklore and/or song help or hinder sea turtle conservation?

TAKE ACTION

- Visit seaturtle.org and choose a sea turtle. Track the sea turtle for 4-6 weeks with your troop and mark a map to show where it has been.
- Create a poster comparing freshwater turtles with sea turtles. Be sure to include pictures and drawings to show the differences and similarities between the two types of animals. Share your poster with your troop or family.
- Write and illustrate a storybook about a sea turtle. Include information about their physical characteristics, why they have these characteristics, and the habitat they occupy. Read your story to a group of younger Girl Scouts.
- Talk with a professional who works with sea turtles. Find out what training, education, and experience they have. Ask them about other careers that involve working with sea turtles and how a person should prepare for a career working with sea turtles.
- Construct a display of sea turtle information, threats, and conservation initiatives. Include ways others can help protect sea turtles. Present your display at a local environmental/ecology event, science fair, or Earth Day celebration.
- Use the Virginia Living Museum's [Trash Talking Turtle Guide](#) to make a trash talking turtle with your troop or on your own. Once your turtle is complete, show it to others and tell them why you made it.

RESOURCES

- <https://cescos.fau.edu/gawliklab/turtletracks/PDF/Florida%20Sea%20Turtles%20Dichotomous%20Key.pdf>
- <http://www.seaturtle.org/>
- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/sea-turtles>
- <https://thevlm.org/wp-content/uploads/trash-talking-turtles-first-edition.pdf>