

Tiny Tots! Ocean explorers

Theme #3: Turtles!

Day 1 Life of a Sea Turtle

Time: 1 hour (about 45 minutes for activities)

Group Size: 1-15 toddlers (1 toddler requires 1 parent)

Grade Levels: pre-school/kindergarten (age 1-4)

Location: Chambers Artifact Gallery/ allotted facility

Overview of Activity

This month's theme is all about Turtles. While mainly focusing on the sea, Turtles were exploring both terrestrial and marine turtles. The activities are to focus on the kind of shells they have, why sea turtles are so important to the ecosystem and how we affect sea turtles with daily human actions.

When in doubt, visiting jetty for the last 5 min of the class is a great filler this theme

Learning Focus

Observation/prediction 1.1 Demonstrate curiosity and raise simple questions about objects and events in their environment.

Introduction

- 5 min Introduction to the program includes
- Welcoming the Jr naturalists with a **song** and setting the mood for learning!
- Super simple songs on Spotify
- Announcing the activities!
- Two activities, with Storytime in between

Activity #1 Turtle Life Cycle

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Turtle life cycle
- Shell made items

Instructors will lead the Jr naturalists through the life cycle of a Sea Turtle. Starting the class with Storytime might help lead the Jr Naturalists in understanding a sea turtles life cycle through some of the stories. Explain how the life of a sea turtle can be so challenging, a few of the books talk about and walk through from egg to adult. Encourage the kids to bury their egg and (remove eggs from sight and add a small turtle)

Storytime- Tiny Tots Turtles book selection

- 10-minute run time
- Most of the turtle books we have talk a little about its lifespan, so any choice of book works if it talks from egg to adult.

Activity #2 if there's time, turtle crafts and egg hatching

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Water bottle ends (preferably green)
- Turtle cut outs

Jr Naturalists will take ends of a water bottle and repurpose it for a shell for their turtle! They can color the turtle and before they glue the turtle shells, they can add things like beads or colored paper to the shell! If there still playing, at the very least they can dig out their eggs and find there small turtle inside.

Extended play!

To finish out the hour, Jr Naturalists can engage in extended play time to play more of the activities or play in the playscape or use the provided toys.

WEEK 2 Turtle Snacks

Time: 1 hour (about 45 minutes for activities)

Group Size: 1-15 toddlers (1 toddler requires 1 parent)

Grade Levels: pre-school/kindergarten (age 2-4)

Location: Chambers Artifact Gallery/ allotted facility

Overview of Activity

Week 2 goes over what sea turtles love to eat, jellies! We visit jellies, make jellies, and talk about how cool jellies are and how they are important to sea turtles! Sea turtles can enjoy jellies because they have scales and are protected by jellies sting. Their mouth and throat are also coated in papillae, which are spine like projections that help protect and break down any sharp or anything harmful that a sea turtle eats.

Learning Focus

2.1 Observe and explore growth in humans, animals, and plants and demonstrate an increased understanding that living things change as they grow and go through transformations related to the life cycle (for example, from a caterpillar to butterfly).

Introduction

5 min Introduction to the program includes

- Welcoming the Jr naturalists with a **song** and setting the mood for learning!
- Super simple songs! - found on Spotify with iPad upstairs connect with rock speaker
- Announcing the activities!
- Two activities, with Storytime in between

Activity #1 Turtle crafts

– 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Paper plates
- Paper disks
- Yarn or string
- Streamers

- Colors such as crayons or markers
- Glue

Instructors will lead the Jr Naturalists in how to color or assemble jelly and turtle crafts. They will do most of the coloring, and the gluing will be done by mom or the instructor. They can make a big jelly with paper plates and streamers or a small one with disks and string. Turtle cutouts and turtle friend cutouts will be precut and glued onto a popsicle stick beforehand.

Storytime- Tiny Tots Turtles book selection

- 10-minute run time

Activity #2 Tank farm Jelly walkthrough

- 15-minute run time

Instructors will lead Jr Naturalists into the tank farm for a quick rendition of a life cycle of a jelly, going over and focusing on the similarities and differences between humans and jellies. They can then explore tank farms for themselves and encourage them to have fun and even do specifics like look for polyps or ephyras!

Extended play!

To finish out the hour, Jr Naturalists can engage in extended play time to play more of the activities or play in the playscape or use the provided toys.

Day 3 Turtle shells

Time: 1 hour (about 45 minutes for activities)

Group Size: 1-15 toddlers (1 toddler requires 1 parent)

Grade Levels: pre-school/kindergarten (age 2-4)

Location: Chambers Artifact Gallery/ allotted facility

Overview of Activity

Week 3 will go over How Tuff Sea turtle shells are. They are more than just protection for a turtle, it's their home. Sea turtles only get one shell and so they got to make smart decisions to make it to adulthood and keep their shell on them.

Learning Focus

1.4 Indicate knowledge of the difference between animate objects (animals, people) and inanimate objects. For example, expect animate objects to initiate movement and to have different insides than inanimate objects.

Introduction

5 min Introduction to the program includes

- Welcoming the Jr naturalists with a **song** and setting the mood for learning!
- Super Simple Songs on Spotify
- Announcing the activities!
- Two activities, with Storytime in between

Activity #1 Turtle shell game

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Different color turtle shells
- large open space

Instructors will lead the Jr Naturalists in color matching with turtle shells. You lay down the shells and have the Jr naturalists match them either in a group or walk them down and follow

the color pattern. Make a game out of it, make them follow a color pattern and walk the shells. They can play the game using the spinner and stand by the turtles or call out colors, play with the cards and read turtle facts.

Storytime-Tiny Tots Turtles Book selection

- 10-minute run time

Activity #2 color your own shell!

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Shell cutouts
- Single bands connect shell and wear it!

Jr Naturalists are to color their own shell and if they want to, can also wear their shell home. Giving them time to either play more of the shell game or color can run the program to the end of the day. This would be a great time to also focus on playtime and creativity.

Extended play!

To finish out the hour, Jr Naturalists can engage in extended play time to play more of the activities or play in the playscape or use the provided toys.

Day 4 How low do turtles go?

Time: 1 hour (about 45 minutes for activities)

Group Size: 1-15 toddlers (1 toddler requires 1 parent)

Grade Levels: pre-school/kindergarten (age 2-4)

Location: Chambers Artifact Gallery/ allotted facility

Overview of Activity

Week 4 of turtles focuses on how deep, sea turtles dive within the water column. Specifically go down the line of how deep each sea turtle dives and make it a game of limbo! See how low you can go compared to sea turtles and then were visiting jetty today!

Learning Focus

1.3 Recognize that living things have habitats in different environments suited to their unique needs.

Introduction

5 min Introduction to the program includes

- Welcoming the Jr naturalists with a **song** and setting the mood for learning!
- Super simple songs! - on Spotify
- Announcing the activities!
- Two activities, with Storytime in between

Activity #1 Turtle Limbo

Play limbo with the kids and explain how deep each turtle dives starting with hawksbill going down the line to leatherback as the deepest diver. They also hold there breath for over 80 min on record!

Type of Turtle	Furthest depth recorded	typical everyday depth
Hawksbill	65 feet (20 meters)	65 feet (20 meters)
Kemps Ridley	160 feet (50 meters)	shallow waters
Flatback	300 feet (100 meters)	less than 200 feet (60 meters)

Green	450 feet (138 meters)	65 feet (20 meters)
Olive Ridley	660 feet (200 meters)	less than 500 feet (150 meters)
Loggerhead	1115 feet (340 meters)	less than 200 feet (60 meters)
Leatherback	approx. 4000 feet (1219 meters)	less than 1650 feet (502 meters)

Storytime- Tiny Tots Turtles Book selection

- 10-minute run time

Activity #2 visit jetty!

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Jetty's tank
- White board on turtle movement

Instructors will lead the Jr Naturalists to visit our turtle and track sea turtles in their lifetime. Example a green will travel thousands of miles to reach their breeding grounds and then back to their feeding spots. The longest recorded green turtle migration for breeding was 3,979 km!

Extended play!

To finish out the hour, Jr Naturalists can engage in extended play time to play more of the activities or play in the playscape or use the provided toys.