



Sea Turtle Rescue 911

Teacher's Guide

Program Summary

Where do sea turtles go when they are sick or hurt? Learn how and why turtles get sick and the importance of a sea turtle hospital. The Georgia Sea Turtle Center staff will discuss the daily care of our patients and teach students methods of sea turtle rehabilitation and husbandry. Then students will get an opportunity to practice some of these techniques by participating in a mock rescue event! Students will break into turtle teams and together become sea turtle vets! They will be given an imaginary patient, determine what is wrong with the turtle, and decide how to treat their patient. .

Key Vocabulary

Abnormality—a phenomenon or occurrence that is unusual

Epibiota—The ecosystem of organisms living on a sea turtle's shell

Debilitated Turtle Syndrome—a turtle that is emaciated and has an overload of epibiota

Marine Debris—garbage found in the oceans

Cold-Stunning—an event that occurs when a sea turtle gets too cold; like hypothermia in humans

Fibropapillomatosis—Disease afflicting sea turtles, characterized by tumors that grow on soft skin and organs

Lethargic—weak

Emaciated—thin, underweight

Stranded—washed up on the beach

Activities

Use the attached sea turtle web-quest to have your students learn about problems that can affect sea turtles. Concentrate on why sea turtles get sick and injured and why they may be brought to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center or any other sea turtle hospital.

Pre and Post Tests

To help the Georgia Sea Turtle Center improve our educational programs we are including a pre and post test with this guide.

The test should be given before your students come to the center, and after they return from their visit. Please return the pre and post tests to us at:

Georgia Sea Turtle Center
214 Stable Road
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call at (912) 635-4076.



This program was designed to align with the Georgia Performance Standards. Each applicable standard is shown in the table to the right.

| Grade Level | HIGH SCHOOL |
|-----------------------|---|
| Correlating Standards | SCSh1.a, SCSh1.b, SCSh1.c, SCSh3.a, SCSh3.b, SCSh3.c, SCSh3.e, SCSh3.f, SCSh4.a, SCSh6.c, SCSh6.d |

Sea Turtle Rescue 911 Pre/Post Test

Name: _____

Multiple Choice:

1. What is debilitated turtle syndrome?
 - A. When a turtle gets hit by a boat
 - B. When a turtle is missing a flipper
 - C. When a turtle is stranded on the beach
 - D. When a turtle is thin and has lots of epibiota
2. This is the reason that 50% of sea turtle stranding in Georgia?
 - A. Marine Debris
 - B. Boat Strikes
 - C. Debilitated Turtle Syndrome
 - D. Shark Attacks
3. How can epibiota be a bad thing for sea turtles?
 - A. It can eat the sea turtle's shell
 - B. It can cause the sea turtle to run into things in the ocean
 - C. It can weigh the sea turtle down
 - D. It can camouflage the sea turtle
4. Why does the Georgia Sea Turtle Center use honey when treating wounds?
 - A. because it is a natural pain reliever
 - B. because it sticks well in the water
 - C. because it is easy to find
 - D. because it is a natural anti-biotic
5. The Georgia Sea Turtle Center has just received a new patient, Liberty the Loggerhead sea turtle. Liberty came from Jekyll Island where she was found stranded on the beach. Liberty is very emaciated and is lethargic. She is also covered in epibiota. What is wrong with Liberty?
 - A. She has been hit by a boat
 - B. She has debilitated turtle syndrome
 - C. She has cold-stunning
 - D. she has a fishing hook in her throat
6. The Georgia Sea Turtle Center has a Kemp's Ridley sea turtle named Kelly. Kelly came St. Simons Island, Georgia on February 15, 2009. Kelly was found stranded on the beach. Kelly weighs 45 pounds and seems to be in good body condition. Kelly has small lesions around the edges of her carapace and also seems cold to the touch.
 - A. She has been hit by a boat
 - B. She has debilitated turtle syndrome
 - C. She has cold-stunning
 - D. she has a fishing hook in her throat

Sea Turtle Rescue 911 Pre/Post Test Answers

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Name _____
Date _____

Sea Turtle Webquest

1) Georgia Sea Turtle Center: <http://www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org/>
Why is a sea turtle center needed in Georgia?

What should you do if you find a sick or injured turtle?

Name five different reasons that sea turtles are brought to the GSTC.

Choose one of the reasons that sea turtles are brought to the GSTC and describe what it is and how it affects sea turtles.

Go to Patient updates then former patients to see all the turtles that have already been released. Name at least four former patients and list why they were brought to the GSTC.

2) Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center: <http://www.seaturtlehospital.org/>

What is 'Lennie's' story and why is 'Lennie' a permanent resident at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Center?

3) The Turtle Hospital: <http://www.turtlehospital.org/>

What is Fibropapillomatosis?

Choose three of the patients (former or current) from the Marathon Turtle Hospital and explain why they were brought to the hospital and how they were treated.