

Turtle Watch: Introduction

Outside – under trees with pencil cases & scissors

40 mins

1. Mythology:

“See the turtle of enormous girth, On his back he holds the Earth.”

<http://www.google.com.au/imgres?q=world+on+back+of+turtle&hl=en&biw=1920&bih=985&gbv=2&tbn=isch&tbnid=ydNX4xcsQvrK5M:&imgrefurl=http://www.democraticunderground.com/100287759&docid=dZGvtrA8Nz1cJM&imgurl=http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-wFFiS62xrj0/TkxN2pBEocI/AAAAAAAAAnE/O9nJ0ywcA-s/s1600/turtle-earth.jpg&w=358&h=272&ei=qOOGT870Es2QiQeViID1Dw&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=1179&vpy=154&dur=81&hovh=196&hovw=258&tx=168&ty=99&sig=106522615084860649807&page=1&tbnh=150&tbnw=201&start=0&ndsp=48&ved=1t:429,r:6,s:0,i:79>

✚ Use props/role play

Turtles are viewed in many cultures as easy going, patient, wise creatures. They have an important role in mythologies around the world. For example:

- Ancient Egypt, Greece & Rome – turtle stories in relation to their gods.
- Africa – Turtle is the cleverest animal.
- Asia – Turtle is sacred, symbolising longevity, power and determination.
- India – In Hindu mythology the world is thought to rest on the backs of 4 elephants that stand on a huge turtle shell. C.f. Terry Prachett’s books – *Discworld* uses same image.
- North America – Different American Indian cultures have the World Turtle carrying the Earth on its back, e.g. Cheyenne tradition. C.f. In Mohawk tradition, when there is an earthquake and the Earth is shaking, it is thought to be a sign the World Turtle is stretching under the great weight she carries.

2. Student Interest:

- Eco footprint & social handprint.
- 2004-2005 Turtle Watch 1
- 2009 onwards students at CPS – our wetlands.
- What do you know/feel about turtles? Where have you seen turtles? What do turtles eat? How do turtles move? Why are turtles important? How can we help turtles?

Importance of attachment to local patch/empowering students now for the future.

3. Turtle Watch 1

- Poster discussion
- Role play nesting - lake fabric, eggs, 3 different sized turtles, reeds.

4. Labelled Playdough/Clay Turtle Models:

- Prepare - playdough/clay, plastic desk covers, buckets of water, card, toothpicks, sticky tape.
- Photograph

Classroom

20 mins

5. Turtle Watch 2

- PPT

6. Discussion:

- Partner: What is the most interesting fact you learnt about turtles today?

- Whole class: What do you feel about turtles now?
- Why we come to school - You can make a difference!

Materials:

Eco footprint

Social handprint

Lake fabric

Eggs (8-25)

3 different sized turtles

Reeds

2 frogs

Playdough/clay

Plastic tablecloths

2 buckets water

Card for labels

Toothpicks

Sticky tape

Scissors

4 colour labelled diagrams of external features +12 B/W copies

Blu-tack

Small table

Trowel

Camera

PPT

Students bring: pencil case, scissors, clip board