

Dear MP – Save The Turtles

Grade 6 – Languages



Lesson Details

Grade Level:	6	Curriculum Links:	Languages	Time Needed:	1.5 hours
Learning Goal	To write a letter to the local MP outlining the needs and importance of turtles. Students will first organize their thoughts and conduct any necessary research to provide background information for their letter.				
Success Criteria	By the end of this lesson, students will have researched the importance of turtles and why we should help conserve them and their habitats. Students will also have drafted and finalized a letter to their local MP with their research and opinions on the topic.				
Specific Expectations	<p><i>Writing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the topic, purpose, and audience for a variety of writing forms; Write longer and more complex texts using a wide range of forms; Establish a distinctive voice in their writing appropriate to the subject and audience; Proofread and correct their writing using guidelines developed with peers and the teacher; Gather information to support ideas for writing, using a variety of strategies and a range of print and electronic resources; Identify and order main ideas and supporting details and group them into units that could be used to develop a structured, multi-paragraph piece of writing, using a variety of strategies; Make revisions to improve the content, clarity, and interest of their written work, using a variety of strategies. 				
Materials Needed	Worksheet (attached), Computer, Internet Access, Pencil, Envelopes, Stamps (for mailing), Notebook, Paper.				

Lesson Description

Overview	Students will research the importance of turtles and why their conservation is vital for habitat health. From this research the students will draft and finalize a written letter addressed to their local MP discussing the importance of turtle conservation.
Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Begin by asking students “why are turtles important?”. Furthering the discussion, ask the students the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do humans negatively impact turtles and their habitats? Positively? Who has the power to help turtles? What can we do to help create positive change? If you could send a message to our local MP about turtles, what would you say? Next, have students research turtle loss and conservation. Have students fill out the attached worksheet to guide them in their research. After researching, students should begin drafting a letter addressed to their local MP discussing the research they have conducted and their opinion on the importance of turtles. Finally, after review from the instructor, send out the letters to your local MP and discuss with the students why it’s important to voice your opinions on important topics like nature conservation.

Lesson Description

Background Information	<p>Turtle's are being negatively impacted by a number of factors: habitat loss, climate change, human impact. One human activity threatening turtle populations is the global trade of turtle parts for food, fashion, and cultural purposes. For example, the Spotted Turtle is illegally captured and sold as pets on the black market. Socio-economic pressures are incentivizing the trade of turtle parts around the world, despite data that indicates their dwindling numbers and endangered populations. As a result, populations of many turtle species are in decline and the health of water in our globally connected ecosystems is at risk.</p>
Blacklist Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet (attached) • Video Link(s): How You Can Help Ontario Turtles and Threats to Ontario Turtles • For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/why-saving-turtles-is-important/
Place-Based Learning	<p>By sending their letters to their local government, the students are forming discussions and creating change for their local environment.</p>
Inquiry-Based Learning	<p>Using Structured Inquiry, the students will work independently to conduct their research and write their letters.</p> <p>Ask the students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are turtles important? • How do humans negatively impact turtles and their habitats? Positively? • Who has the power to help turtles? • What can we do to help create positive change? • If you could send a message to our local MP about turtles, what would you say?
Turtle Stories	<p>How do you plan to make positive impacts on the environment and reduce negative ones? Turtles are often impacted greatly by roads, so reminding people to slow down and watch for turtles is one way to contribute. Put 'Watch for Turtles' signs in areas where there is turtle movement across roads. Students are encouraged to share their experiences, pictures, and letters on the Turtle Stories website, found here: https://www.turtlestories.ca/</p>
Turtle Guardian Program Links	<p>After completing Level 1 (Ontario Turtle Identification) of the Turtle Guardian Program, students can move onto Level 2 (Wetland Watchers). In this level the students learn how to monitor wetland habitats, contribute to knowledge of wildlife-biology in the region, and are able to adopt a wetland to monitor for turtles, birds, and other animals. For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/what-is-a-turtle-guardian/</p>

My Notes



Dear MP – Save The Turtles: Research

Topic: Turtle Loss and Conservation

Using the computer, research turtle loss in your community. Why are turtles being negatively impacted? What lead to the loss? What/who is affected by turtle loss?

Using the computer, research turtle conservation in your community. Also, research turtle conservation in other communities to learn what your community could do to make further changes. Which local wildlife organizations help turtles in your community?

What is your opinion on turtle conservation? Why is it important to you?

On a separate piece of paper, begin writing a rough draft of a letter to your local MP about the importance of turtle conservation using the research you just conducted.