

# Dear MP – The Importance of Turtle Tunnels

Grade 7 – Languages



## Lesson Details

<b>Grade Level:</b>	7	<b>Curriculum Links:</b>	Languages	<b>Time Needed:</b>	1.5 hours
<b>Learning Goal</b>	To write a letter to the local MP outlining the importance of turtle tunnels. Students will first organize their thoughts and conduct any necessary research to provide background information for their letter.				
<b>Success Criteria</b>	By the end of this lesson, students will have researched the use of turtle tunnels and why we should help conserve turtles and their habitats. Students will also have drafted and finalized a letter to their local MP with their research and opinions on the topic.				
<b>Specific Expectations</b>	<p><i>Writing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the topic, purpose, and audience for more complex writing forms;</li> <li>Write complex texts of different lengths using a wide range of forms;</li> <li>Establish a distinctive voice in their writing appropriate to the subject and audience;</li> <li>Proofread and correct their writing using guidelines developed with peers and the teacher;</li> <li>Gather information to support ideas for writing, using a variety of strategies and a range of print and electronic resources;</li> <li>Identify and order main ideas and supporting details and group them into units that could be used to develop a multi-paragraph piece of writing, using a variety of strategies, and organized patterns;</li> <li>Make revisions to improve the content, clarity, and interest of their written work, using a variety of strategies.</li> </ul>				
<b>Materials Needed</b>	Worksheet (attached), Computer, Internet Access, Pencil, Envelopes, Stamps (for mailing), Notebook, Paper.				

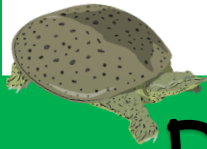
## Lesson Description

<b>Overview</b>	Students will research the importance of turtle tunnels and why turtle 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 tunnels.
<b>Activity</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin by asking students “why are turtle tunnels important?”.</li> <li>Furthering the discussion, ask the students the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do humans negatively impact turtles and their habitats? Positively?</li> <li>Who has the power to help turtles?</li> <li>What can we do to help create positive change?</li> <li>If you could send a message to our local MP about turtle tunnels, what would you say?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Next, have students research turtle loss and conservation. Have students fill out the attached worksheet to guide them in their research.</li> <li>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 turtle tunnels for turtle survival.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>

# Lesson Description

<b>Background Information</b>	<p>Turtles are excellent navigators within the areas they are familiar with, i.e. their “home ranges.” Ontario turtles are capable of long distance travel over land, and some individuals have very large home ranges with nesting sites far from the wetlands they use during the summer months, which can be separate and further still from the wetland they might use for their overwintering. Due to their need to travel across land they may find themselves crossing a road which is a dangerous part of their journey. Turtle tunnels are built under roads allowing turtles, and other wildlife, the freedom to safely continue their journey. Turtle tunnels are however labour intensive and take time to organize, therefore the support of an MP could increase awareness and conservation efforts.</p>
<b>Blacklist Masters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worksheet (attached)</li> <li>• Video Link(s): <a href="#">How You Can Help Ontario Turtles</a> and <a href="#">Threats to Ontario Turtles</a></li> <li>• For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.turtleguardians.com/why-saving-turtles-is-important/">https://www.turtleguardians.com/why-saving-turtles-is-important/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Place-Based Learning</b>	<p>By sending their letters to their local government, the students are forming discussions and creating change for their local environment.</p>
<b>Inquiry-Based Learning</b>	<p>Using <b>Structured Inquiry</b>, 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"> <li>• Why are turtle tunnels important?</li> <li>• How do humans negatively impact turtles and their habitats? Positively?</li> <li>• Who has the power to help turtles?</li> <li>• What can we do to help create positive change?</li> <li>• If you could send a message to our local MP about turtle tunnels, what would you say?</li> </ul>
<b>Turtle Stories</b>	<p>How do you plan to share your newly gained knowledge for turtle conservation and awareness? Each year Turtle Guardians hosts their annual Turtle Walk – learn how to get involved and raise awareness for your local turtles. Students are encouraged to share their experiences, pictures, and letters on the Turtle Stories website, found here: <a href="https://www.turtlestories.ca/">https://www.turtlestories.ca/</a></p>
<b>Turtle Guardian Program Links</b>	<p>After completing <b>Level 1</b> (Ontario Turtle Identification) of the <b>Turtle Guardian Program</b>, students can move onto <b>Level 2</b> (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 <a href="https://www.turtleguardians.com/what-is-a-turtle-guardian/">https://www.turtleguardians.com/what-is-a-turtle-guardian/</a></p>

# My Notes



# Dear MP – Turtle Tunnels: Research

**Topic:** Turtle Tunnels and Turtle 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?

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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? Do they utilize turtle tunnels?

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What is your opinion on turtle conservation and the use of turtle tunnels? Why is it important to you?

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