

Draw A Turtle

Grade 1 – Visual Art



Lesson Details

Grade Level:	1	Curriculum Links:	Visual Art, Science and Technology	Time Needed:	30 minutes
Learning Goal	To learn about the characteristics and habitats of turtles by looking at pictures and drawing a turtle.				
Success Criteria	By the end of this lesson, students will be able to draw a turtle and identify its characteristics as well as habitat.				
Specific Expectations	<p><i>Visual Art – Elements of Design</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create two- and three-dimensional works of art that express feelings and ideas inspired by personal experiences; • Demonstrate an understanding of composition, using principles of design to create narrative artworks or art works on a theme or topic; • Use elements of design in art works to communicate ideas, messages, and personal understandings; • Use a variety of materials, tools, and techniques to respond to design challenges: drawing, mixed media, painting, printmaking, sculpture; • Express their feelings and ideas about art works and art experiences; • Explain how elements and principles of design are used to communicate meaning or understanding their own and other's artwork. <p><i>Science and Technology – Understanding Life Systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the physical characteristics of a variety of plants and animals; • Investigate and compare the physical characteristics of a variety of plants and animals, including humans. 				
Materials Needed	Ontario Turtle Identification Sheet (attached), Pencil, Paper, Pencil Crayons, Crayons, Markers.				

Lesson Description

Overview	Students will first create a drawing of what they think a turtle looks like in its natural habitat. Then, after a discussion, students will re-create their drawings making any necessary changes.
Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hand out a piece of paper and colouring utensils to each student. 2. Tell the students to draw a turtle in its home. Give no additional instructions. 3. Once the students have completed their drawings, have each student share theirs either in small groups or to the class. 4. On the board, create a list of characteristics as a class of all the turtles shared. Also make a list of the homes (habitats) in which each turtle was drawn. 5. Discuss what makes an animal a turtle (E.g. shell, scutes, beak, tail, etc.). Also discuss the different turtle habitats (E.g. wetland, lake, pond, etc.). 6. Next, share pictures of the different Ontario Turtles and discuss any similarities or differences between the list of characteristics created as a class and the pictures of the turtles shared. 7. Also discuss any similarities or differences between the list of habitats that were drawn and the habitats in the pictures shared. 8. Finally, have the students turn their papers over and draw another turtle now that they have learned what makes an animal a turtle and their habitat suitable.

Lesson Description

Background Information	<p>Turtles are reptiles, most easily distinguished by their shells. These shells can be hard and bony or soft and leathery. Turtles exhibit characteristics shared by all reptiles: they are cold-blooded, have scales, breathe using lungs, and lay eggs. However, turtles are the only group of reptiles that have both a shell and a beak (instead of teeth). There are over 250 species of turtle, broken into three main groups: land turtles, aquatic turtles, and marine turtles. In Ontario, we have 8 species of turtles: Blanding's, Map, Painted (Midland and Western), Snapping, Spiny Softshell, Spotted, Stinkpot (Musk), and Wood.</p> <p>Land turtles can also be called tortoises. They spend the majority of their time on land, only occasionally venturing into shallow water. Land turtles tend to have broad, stumpy feet. They can be herbivores or omnivores. Their shells are usually domed, allowing the animal to hide inside. Aquatic turtles spend most of their time in the water. Aquatic turtle shells tend to be less domed than land turtles so they can move quickly through the water. Their feet are typically webbed to allow for better swimming. Aquatic turtles are usually omnivores. There are no Marine turtles in Ontario as they are found in the ocean.</p>
Blacklist Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Turtle Identification Sheet (attached) • Video Link(s): Ontario Turtle Identification and Wetlands and Turtles in Ontario • For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/id-turtles/
Place-Based Learning	Students are encouraged to visit a wetland or other natural area to try to spot the turtles they have learned about in their native environment. Which Ontario turtles are local to their community?
Inquiry-Based Learning	<p>Using Open Inquiry, students will create their turtle drawings, and then discuss the proper characteristics and habitats of Ontario Turtles.</p> <p>Ask the students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does a turtle look like? And where do they live? • Do turtles exhibit different characteristics that help them survive in their different habitats?
Turtle Stories	<p>Each species of turtle is different and carry their own unique set of characteristics. Today you drew a turtle, but can you make a turtle from any other materials? Try making a turtle from only recyclables. Students are encouraged to share their experiences and pictures 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

Ontario Turtle Identification

Blanding's Turtle



Ontario Turtle Identification

Midland (top) and Western (bottom) Painted Turtles



Photo Credit: Animals Network Team

Ontario Turtle Identification

Snapping Turtle



Ontario Turtle Identification

Spiny Softshell Turtle



Photo Credit: Wildlife Preservation



Photo Credit: Toronto Zoo

Ontario Turtle Identification

Spotted Turtle



Ontario Turtle Identification

Stinkpot (Musk) Turtle



Ontario Turtle Identification

Wood Turtle



Ontario Turtle Identification

Map Turtle



Photo Credit: Wildlife Preservation



Photo Credit: Toronto Zoo