

Needs of Humans and Turtles

Grade 1 – Science and Technology



Lesson Details

Grade Level:	1	Curriculum Links:	Science and Technology	Time Needed:	30 minutes
Learning Goal	To understand the basic needs of both humans, and animals. Students will then translate this knowledge to a worksheet about a Blanding's turtle.				
Success Criteria	By the end of this lesson, students will successfully connect the lines between the needs of a human and the needs of a turtle, seeing the overlap between human and animal needs.				
Specific Expectations	<p><i>Understanding Life Systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and compare the basic needs of humans and other living things: including the need for air, water, food, warmth, and space, using a variety of methods and resources; Describe changes or problems that could result from the loss of some kinds of living things that are a part of everyday life. 				
Materials Needed	Worksheet (attached), Pencil.				

Lesson Description

Overview	After a discussion about the needs of humans and turtles, students will fill out the attached worksheet, relating the needs of humans to those of a Blanding's turtle.
Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> As a class, brainstorm the things that humans need to survive. Next, ask the students to pretend to be a turtle. As turtles, brainstorm the things that they need to survive. Hand out the worksheet and have the students use lines to match the human need that is most like the Blanding's turtle need. As a class, discuss what would happen if something like a home, or habitat, is taken away. Finally, discuss what humans can do to help turtles.
Background Information	<p>The Blanding's turtle is a medium sized turtle with a smooth high-domed carapace that is black to dark brown in colour. This turtle is typically known to always smile – this is because their chin and throat are a bright yellow colour that makes their mouth look like they are smiling.</p> <p>Blanding's turtles are semi-aquatic, meaning they spend most of their time in aquatic habitats but also require terrestrial habitats for nesting, basking, summer inactivity, and movement. Aquatic habitats are mainly used for overwintering, mating, foraging, but also for basking, summer inactivity, and movement. This turtle shows a preference for ponds and marshes, and favours relatively nutrient rich shallow water.</p> <p>Their diet is mostly comprised of crayfish, worms, leeches, snails, slugs, fish, insects, frogs, aquatic vegetation and some terrestrial plants too; making these turtles omnivorous. Small wetlands are important foraging sites for the Blanding's turtle, especially juveniles who prefer to hide amongst thick vegetation to avoid predation.</p> <p>These turtles are often associated with beaver and muskrat wetlands as they rely on the</p>

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	channels made by the mammals to move throughout the land. The removal of the beaver and muskrat would pose a threat to the survival of the Blanding's turtle.
Blacklist Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet (attached) • Video Link(s): Ontario Turtle Identification and How You Can Help Ontario Turtles • For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/id-turtles/blandings-turtle/
Place-Based Learning	Students will reflect on their life, specifically their needs, and then translate those into the needs of a turtle. Having this knowledge will allow the students to become more aware of the needs of organisms in their local community.
Inquiry-Based Learning	<p>Using Structured Inquiry, the students will work together as a class to discuss the needs of humans and turtles.</p> <p>Ask the students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do humans need to survive? • What do turtles, like the Blanding's Turtle, need to survive? • What happens if something like a home, or habitat, is taken away? • What can we do to help turtles?
Turtle Stories	How can we help to ensure turtles have everything they need in order to survive? Visit a natural area where you might find turtles and check out their home – what do you see? Anything a turtle might eat? Students are encouraged to share their experiences, pictures, and worksheets on the Turtle Stories website, found here: https://www.turtlestories.ca/
Turtle Guardian Program Links	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/

My Notes



What Do Humans and Turtles Need?

Match the things you need, to the things a Blanding's turtle needs by drawing a line to connect them.

Things I Need:

Things a Blanding's Turtle Needs:



Draw a Picture of Yourself!



A Place to Live



A Place to Sleep



Things to Eat



Air to Breathe



Things to Stay Warm



Air to Breathe



Insects



Sunshine



A Pond



Reeds and Other Plants



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