

# Race To The Wetland – A Turtle Board Game

Grade 6 – Visual Arts



## Lesson Details

<b>Grade Level:</b>	6	<b>Curriculum Links:</b>	Visual Arts	<b>Time Needed:</b>	2 hours
<b>Learning Goal</b>	To create a fun board game and to explore the needs of a baby turtle throughout its journey from hatching to finding a home as well as the pressures faced by predators and other threats.				
<b>Success Criteria</b>	By the end of this lesson, students will have explored the needs of a turtle and the threats it can face while navigating life. By doing so they will have utilized art skills and created a board game to illustrate these challenges.				
<b>Specific Expectations</b>	<p><i>Elements of Design</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and multimedia artworks that explore feelings, ideas, and issues from a variety of points of view;</li> <li>• Demonstrate an understanding of composition, using selected principles of design to create narrative artworks or artworks on a theme of topic;</li> <li>• Use elements of design in artworks to communicate ideas, messages, and understandings.</li> </ul>				
<b>Materials Needed</b>	Worksheet (attached), Computer, Internet Access, Pencil, Colouring Pencils, Markers, Crayons, a Large Sheet of Paper (one for each group).				

## Lesson Description

<b>Overview</b>	Using art skills, students will create a fun board game telling the story of a baby turtle on a journey to find a wetland as a home. On this journey the turtle will face challenges (E.g. predators) and must search for their necessities (E.g. food).
<b>Activity</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Begin by discussing with the class the necessities of a turtle (E.g. food, water, home, nesting site, hibernation site, basking location, etc.). Further the discussion by asking the class “what threats do turtles face?” (E.g. predators, crossing roads, habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, etc.).</li> <li>2. Next, explain the activity. Students will use the information just discussed to create a board game about a turtle’s journey from hatching to finding a wetland (home). The board game should be visually appealing and include each item on the checklist (see attached worksheet).</li> <li>3. Split the students either into pairs or groups of three (depending on the size of the class) and distribute the worksheet.</li> <li>4. If students require additional information, they may use a computer with internet access to do independent research.</li> <li>5. Once the students complete their board games, have a dedicated fun period for the students to play the games.</li> </ol>
<b>Background Information</b>	Just like almost all animals (or reptiles in this case), turtles have necessities. Turtles require food; they love to eat dead and decaying things that are found at the bottom of ponds, lakes, and wetlands – they help keep the water clean too. Turtles need a home; as previously mentioned turtles can be found in ponds, lakes, and wetlands (they require an area with water to swim in and dry land to rest and bask on). Turtles, like other reptiles, are often found basking on roads and rocks and logs when the temperature reaches approx. 21°C in the early morning. Unfortunately, turtles face many threats; from people taking turtles home as pets and out of the breeding

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	<p>populations, to pet trades, direct persecution by people who misunderstand that turtles are not aggressive when in their water habitats, the removal or alteration of habitats including lakeshores, bays, wetlands, and pathways between aquatic habitats. But nowadays, the main threat to turtles in road traffic.</p> <p>Turtles emerge from hibernation in late April/early May and generally reach peak nesting times during the first two weeks in June. At this time females are heading to their annual nesting sites across roads, and some of these sites are actually on road shoulders. This is the most dangerous time for turtles.</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>, <a href="#">Threats to Ontario Turtles</a>, <a href="#">The Turtle Life Cycle</a>, and <a href="#">Turtle Nesting</a></li> <li>• For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/">https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Place-Based Learning</b>	By creating a board games about the needs of and threats faced by turtles in their life, students will gain an understanding of how to help turtles in their local community.
<b>Inquiry-Based Learning</b>	Using <b>Guided Inquiry</b> , the students will work in groups to create their board game.
	<p>Ask the students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does a turtle need in order to survive?</li> <li>• What threats do turtles face?</li> </ul>
<b>Turtle Stories</b>	How do you plan to get involved and help a turtle? You can learn how to build a nest protector cage to help the baby turtles have the best chance of survival until they begin their journey to find a home. Students are encouraged to share their experiences, pictures, and board games on the Turtle Stories website, found here: <a href="https://www.turtlestories.ca/">https://www.turtlestories.ca/</a>
<b>Turtle Guardian Program Links</b>	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 the importance of protecting, and specifically of how to protect turtle nests. They then can become official nest sitters (when accompanied by an adult) and learn how to build a nest cage protector. 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>

## My Notes



# Race To The Wetland – A Turtle Board Game

Using your knowledge of the needs of and challenges faced by turtles, you will create a board game illustrating the journey of a baby turtle as it travels from its nesting site to a wetland. You can create whatever type of board game you like, with whatever additional materials as well (E.g. dice, cards, a spinner, etc.).

Be creative with the design, and make sure to include every item in the below checklist!

**At least 3 needs of a turtle:**

- Need 1:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Need 2:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Need 3:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional Need:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional Need:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional Need:** \_\_\_\_\_

**At least 3 challengers faced by turtles:**

- Challenge 1:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Challenge 2:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Challenge 3:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional Challenge:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional Challenge:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional Challenge:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A starting location**

**A finish location**

**At least 20 spaces for a player to move along**

**Images relating to a turtle**

**Images relating to a wetland**

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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