

Turtle Bank

Grade 4 – Visual Arts



Lesson Details

Grade Level:	4	Curriculum Links:	Visual Arts	Time Needed:	1 hour
Learning Goal	To learn about the importance of turtle conservation in Ontario while creating their own turtle bank to help raise money for conservation efforts.				
Success Criteria	By the end of this activity, students will understand the importance of turtle conservation in Ontario and have tactile experience creating their own turtle bank art piece.				
Specific Expectations	<p><i>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 their interests and experiences; • Use elements of design in artworks to communicate ideas, messages, and understandings; • Interpret a variety of artworks, and identify the feelings, issues, themes, and social concerns that they convey; • Analyze the use of elements and principles of design in a variety of artworks and explain how they are used to communicate meaning or understanding. 				
Materials Needed	Worksheet (attached), Turtle Body Cut-Out (attached), Coloured Paper, Markers, Glue, Tape, Scissors, Clean Fruit Cups (at least one for each student), Pipe Cleaners, Googly Eyes, Other Art Supplies Needed For Decorating (your choice).				

Lesson Description

Overview	After learning about the importance of turtle conservation in Ontario, students will create a small turtle bank to help raise money for local conservation efforts.
Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before handing out the art supplies and reflection worksheet, introduce the students to turtle conservation and discuss. Why is saving local Ontario turtles important? How can we help them? 2. Before handing the supplies out, make sure to cut a slit in the base of the clean fruit cup so a large coin can fit through. 3. Next, explain the activity and hand out the supplies. Students will be creating a turtle bank to collect money for turtle conservation. The turtle bank will be made from an upside down (clean) fruit cup that is attached to a paper base in the shape of a turtle body (see attached Turtle Body Cut-Out sheet) to hold the money in the cup. 4. Students are then free to decorate their turtle however they like. 5. At the end of the activity, display the turtles for viewing. 6. Raising money can be done in a variety of ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1. Have the students in the class bring in a coin each (the value of the coin is up to them). Students will then put their coin in the turtle bank they think is decorated the best (not their own). Option 2. Place the turtle banks in the staff room to have the school's staff vote on which turtle they think is best. In the same fashion as above, each teacher should place a coin (the value of the coin is up to them) in the turtle bank of their choosing. Option 3. Place the turtle banks in an open area for all students in the school to

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	<p>vote on. In the same fashion as above, each student should place a coin (the value of the coin is up to them) in the turtle bank of their choosing.</p> <p>7. At the end of the voting tally the coins in each turtle to determine the contest winner.</p> <p>8. All the money placed in the turtles will be put together and the total should be donated to a local wildlife conservation program that aims to help turtles.</p> <p>9. Finally, hand out the attached worksheet for the students to complete.</p>
Background Information	<p>In 2017 Ontario lost a huge number of turtles due to unprecedented numbers of turtles on roads and subsequently killed. The warm and wet weather made turtles more comfortable to travel overland. Turtles take about 60 years to replace themselves in the environment and less than 0.1% of turtle eggs laid, survive to make it to adulthood. Therefore, adult turtles are precious and invaluable to the continuation of the species. The loss in 2017 was devastating causing The Land Between (head of Turtle Guardians) to announce a turtle crisis.</p>
Blacklist Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet (attached) • Turtle Body Cut-Out (attached) • Video Link(s): Ontario Turtle Identification and How You Can Help Ontario Turtles • For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/how-to-help-turtles/
Place-Based Learning	<p>Students will become more aware of their local wildlife, and the conservation efforts put forward to help by raising awareness and money. Learning about their local wildlife will help the students to become more aware and conscious of their impacts on the environment.</p>
Inquiry-Based Learning	<p>Using Structured Inquiry, students will create their own turtle bank to help raise money through a voting competition for turtle conservation.</p> <p>Ask the students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What threats do turtles face in nature? • Why is it important to help save our local wildlife and turtles? • What can we do to help turtles?
Turtle Stories	<p>You can help turtles from their early stages of life by building a nest cage protector and placing it over a nest in an unsafe area (E.g. the side of a road). Students are encouraged to share their experiences, pictures, and turtle bank art piece 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 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 https://www.turtleguardians.com/what-is-a-turtle-guardian/</p>

My Notes



Turtle Bank Reflection

Q1. Why is saving local Ontario Turtles important?

Turtles are known as a keystone species; a keystone species is an animal whose role in the food-web is essential to an entire chain of linked species, habitats, and ecosystem services. This means that without them the ecosystem can collapse, and elements can be sorely compromised. When it comes to turtles, they are essential in maintaining water quality by removing the sources of harmful bacteria - turtles eat carcasses of fish and animals that die in lakes and wetlands. Turtles are also essential in keeping fish habitat and wetland areas thriving.

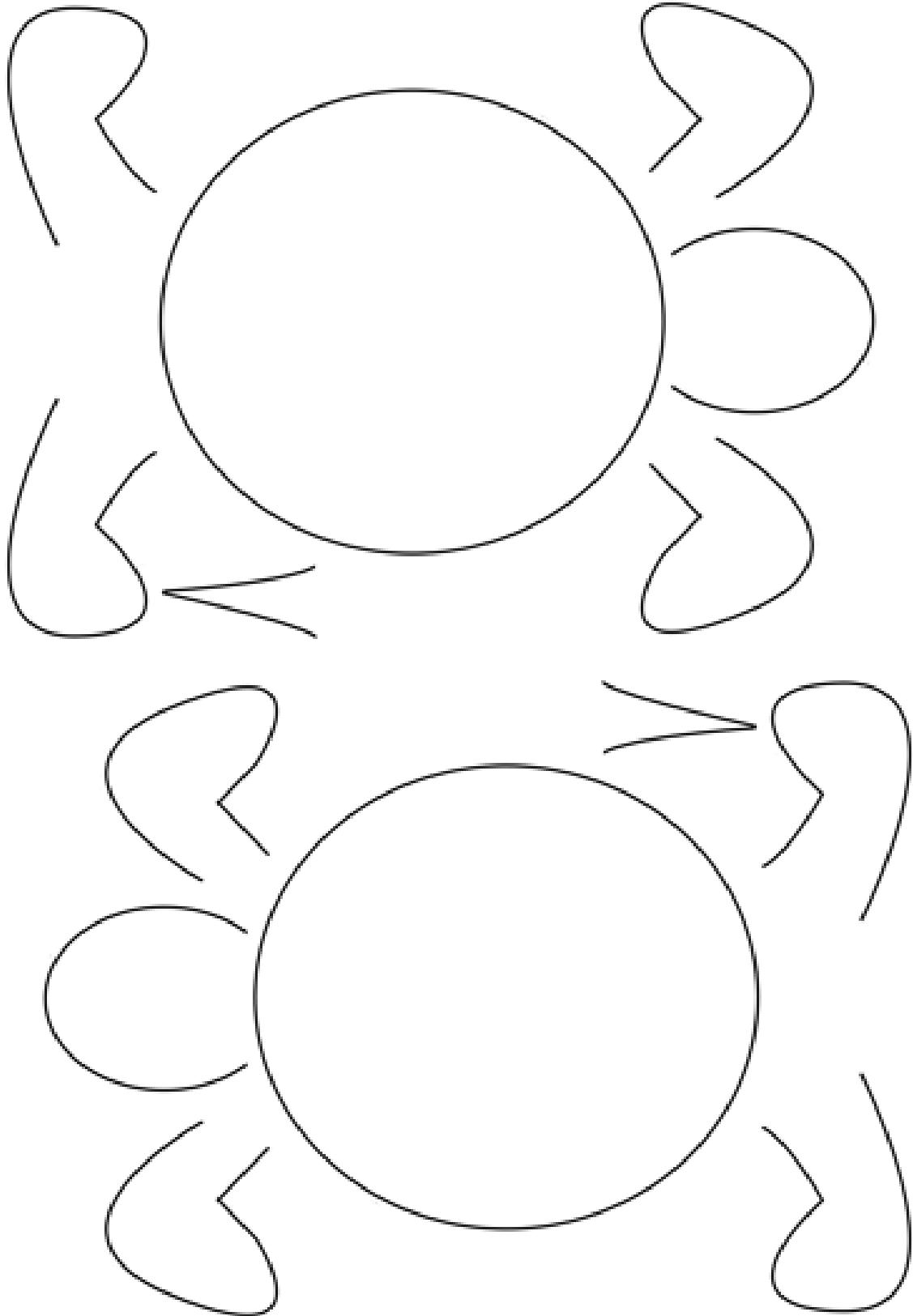
Q2. How can we help conserve Ontario Turtles and their habitats?

Raise awareness and educate yourself. Raise money and put to towards conservation efforts. Monitor wetlands and turtle nesting sites to keep track of the turtles. Etc.

Q3. What do you like about your turtle? What would you change?

Q4. Which of your classmate's turtles do you like best? Why?

Turtle Body Cut-Out





Turtle Bank Reflection

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