

Your Unlucky Turtle Story

Grade 3 – Languages



Lesson Details

Grade Level:	3	Curriculum Links:	Languages, Science and Technology	Time Needed:	2 hours
Learning Goal	To help students develop their understanding of the turtle life cycle through the creative writing process. Students will create their own creative story about the turtle life cycle, developing their own ideas and voice.				
Success Criteria	By the end of the lesson, students will have created their own turtle stories, with completed planning and organization sheets.				
Specific Expectations	<p><i>Languages – Writing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate, gather and organize ideas and information to write for an intended purpose and audience; • Draft and revise their writing using a variety of informational, literacy and graphic forms and stylistic elements appropriate for the purpose and audience; • Use editing, proofreading, and publishing skills and strategies, and knowledge of language conventions, to correct errors, refine expression and present their work effectively; • Reflect and identify their strengths as writers, areas for improvement, and the strategies they find most helpful at different stages in the writing process. <p><i>Science and Technology – Understanding Life Systems: Growth and Changes in Plants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify examples of environmental conditions that may threaten plant and animal survival. 				
Materials Needed	The Unlucky Turtle Story (attached), Worksheet (attached), Pencil, Notebook.				

Lesson Description

Overview	After reading <i>The Unlucky Turtle</i> story, students will create their own Unlucky Turtle stories, outlining the threats turtles may face throughout their life cycle.
Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin by asking the class, “What are some of the dangers and threats facing a turtle throughout its life”? 2. As a class, plot the sequence of a turtle’s life cycle on the board, identifying threats at each stage. 3. Read <i>The Unlucky Turtle</i> to the class. This story will serve as inspiration for their own stories. 4. Hand out the attached worksheet for students to create their story outlines. Explain the outline and have students plot elements and challenges of a turtle’s life in the outline. 5. Before the students write their stories, check the outlines and mentor the students if needed. 6. Optional: Once the stories are written, have the students share them with the class.
Blacklist Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Unlucky Turtle Story (attached) • Elements of a Story Worksheet (attached) • Video Link(s): How You Can Help Ontario Turtles, Threats to Ontario Turtles, and The Turtle Life Cycle

Lesson Description

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/
Place-Based Learning	Students should become more conscious about local wildlife conservation and learn how they can help turtles thrive in their community. Invite a local wildlife conservation expert in to discuss conservation efforts with the class.
Inquiry-Based Learning	Using Open Inquiry , the students will first listen, then work independently to create their own personal Unlucky Turtle stories. Ask the students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any similarities between the life cycle of a human and the life cycle of a turtle? What are some of the dangers and threats facing a turtle throughout its life? How do humans contribute to some of the dangers and threats facing turtles? What emotions, if any, do you think a turtle feels when it is facing some of these threats and challenges? Do you ever feel those emotions when challenged?
Turtle Stories	What threats exist against turtles? Nesting is a large issue as most female turtles lay their eggs along the roadside. You can help protect turtle nests by building a nest cage protector and placing it over a nest in an unsafe area. Students are encouraged to share their experiences, pictures, and work 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 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/

My Notes



My Unlucky Turtle Story

Elements of a Story Worksheet

Name:	Date:
Create A Story	
Use the boxes below to help you come up with details for an interesting story. If you're having a hard time, just ask "WHY?" and "HOW?" to keep the story moving in a good direction.	
Main Character:	Supporting Characters:
What is their name? What do they look like? What do they like to do? What makes this character special?	What are the character names? What do they look like? Other details? Are they friends, allies, or enemies? What makes this character important to the story?
Setting:	Problem:
What does this place look like? Are there many different places that the story takes place in? What do they look like?	Who or what is causing the problem? How are the problems affecting the main character?
Climax:	Solution:
What will be the most exciting things to happen in this story? How will this big event affect the characters afterwards?	How does the character solve the problem?

The Unlucky Turtle

Shelley the turtle was born twice. All that she remembers from her first birth is the “thump” as she dropped as an egg into a sandy pit with all 30 of her brothers and sisters. Then there was a whole lotta something as her little body grew inside the egg, but also a whole lotta nothing as she couldn’t explore much in her egggy home.



Weeks went by as Shelley grew and grew inside her shell. She often heard the rumblings of cars as they sped by on the blacktop of the county road. But the scariest moment came one night when all around her she heard the scratching of a raccoon and the *crunch* of it eating many of her brothers and sisters. Somehow Shelley and a few of her nestmates remained untouched, until an incredible urge overtook them that the time had come to be born, again.

The night that Shelley was born again, a full moon shone brightly in the night sky. She broke out of her shell with precision and intensity only to find that there was yet another obstacle in her path. The sand and gravel that had insulated her so well, now blocked her way out and kept her below ground. She breathed shallowly as her little baby claws scratched away the sand and gravel as the moon pulled her forward. Finally, she broke through to the surface and into the night air.

All around, her remaining brothers and sisters were breathing in the night air too. All of a sudden a rumbling was felt under her little feet as a giant metal beast zoomed past her nose. This frightened Shelley, and she knew she had to do something but what. There was no time to think. Shelley’s instincts kicked in and she scuttled off in a direction. Another rumbling was heard and this time a metal beast came right over top of her, Shelley gulped and closed her eyes. In an instant it was over, the beast had missed. Shelley opened her eyes and continued to move in the direction she felt called to.



The sun rose and set again before Shelley knew she had arrived. She knew she had arrived when she felt the cool liquid cover her body, head to tail. Moving her little feet Shelley swam through the water but did so quickly, looking for shelter from the scary expanse of open water that lay before her. Out of nowhere a fish swam directly towards her. Shelley dove down and swam for her life. The fish circled back towards her, but Shelley kept on swimming into a tight matting of pickerelweed and nestled in amongst the roots.

She hid amongst the roots for a long time, but soon she felt a new calling, hunger. Shelley swam close to shore until she found some elodea. A common plant that grows in the water. She took a bite. Delicious. She swam up to the surface, took a breath, and miraculously caught a water strider in her mouth. This is how Shelley spent the rest of her summer. But summer went by in an instant and it wasn't long before Shelley began to feel slower than normal. The water was cooling and so was her blood. She knew she had to get warm. Shelley stopped eating and began moving more and more slowly. Then one day after many days of not eating she took a deep breath and dove to the bottom of the pond, burying herself with only her head exposed to take periodic breaths through her mouth's protective membrane.



7 Years Later...

One spring Shelley emerged for a breath of the fresh spring air. The leaves were barely budding on the trees, but Shelley felt different. She knew the time had come to make her own family and she wanted a big one. First, she had to find a mate, but did any male turtles even live in this pond, she wasn't sure. She had seen a few when she was younger, but now the pressure was on and she really needed to know. She swam around the edge of the pond and came across a larger male. After seeing each other, they began moving their heads side to side in an ancient courtship ritual.

A month after mating Shelley knew that her eggs were ready to be laid. She remembered the feel of sand and gravel on her claws and began searching for a similar place. Shelley pulled herself out of the water late one night and began crawling up the slope feeling the hard ground below her. A strangely new yet familiar rumbling could be heard in the distance but would only last for a few moments. Shelley climbed on. Suddenly there was a steep incline and Shelley climbed up. A metal beast zoomed past her narrowly missing her nose. Shelley crawled slowly across the flat rock. Another beast zoomed right over top of her. Shelley gulped again. This could be it. Nevertheless, she knew she had to build her nest. Finally, the rock gave way to loose gravel, and Shelley began to dig and dig and dig. Tired, she fell into a trance and one by one all of her 47 eggs dropped into the earth.



Shelley was born again.





My Unlucky Turtle Story



Elements of a Story Worksheet

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Date:

Create A Story

Use the boxes below to help you come up with details for an interesting story. If you're having a hard time, just ask "WHY?" and "HOW?" to keep the story moving in a good direction.

Main Character:

Supporting Characters:

Setting:

Problem:

Climax:

Solution: