



Welcome to Turtle Trek! In this class packet you'll learn fun facts about turtles and what species we have on Nantucket. Activities will include nature exploration, games, and crafts. If you pick up this packet in-person at the LLNF at 110 Eel Point Rd, then all materials will be provided. **Everything in the bag is yours to keep, please do not return anything to the pick-up box.**

You can also download this packet from our website and follow along with the instructions, even if you are not on Nantucket, but you'll need to provide your own materials.

Activities included:

- Turtle Trivia (True or False)
- Terrific Turtle Scavenger Hunt
- Turtle Tag
- Create Your Own Turtle



Turtle Trivia (True or False)

- 1) Turtles are mammals. T F
- 2) Turtles have a hard shell that protects them like a shield, this upper shell is called a 'carapace'. T F
- 3) Turtles also have a lower shell called a 'plastron'. T F
- 4) Many turtle species can hide their heads inside their shells when attacked by predators. T F
- 5) Turtles have existed for around 1,000 years. T F
- 6) Unlike other reptiles, turtles are warm blooded. T F
- 7) The largest turtle is the bog turtle, it can weigh over 5 tons! (10,000 lbs.) T F
- 8) Turtles give live birth. T F
- 9) In some species of turtle, temperature determines if the egg will develop into a male or female, lower temperatures lead to a male while higher temperatures lead to a female. T F
- 10) Some turtles lay eggs in the sand and leave them to hatch on their own. The young turtles make their way to the top of the sand and scramble to away while trying to avoid predators. T F
- 11) Sea turtles have special glands which help remove salt from the water they drink. T F
- 12) Many turtle species are endangered. T F



Answer Key for True or False:
1) False: turtles are reptiles. 2) True. 3) True. 4) True. 5) False: turtles have existed for around 215 million years. 6) False: turtles are cold-blooded. 7) False: the largest turtle is the leatherback sea turtle; it can weigh over 900 kg (2,000 lbs.). 8) False: turtles can only lay eggs. 9) True. 10) True. 11) True. 12) True.

Terrific Turtle Scavenger Hunt

Instructions:

Go out in nature and try to find evidence of turtles! Even if you don't spot an animal itself, you can find clues to let you know that there are turtles in the area, such as nest sites and habitats. You can walk along the LLNF trail as you search or any other nature area if you downloaded the packet online and are following along from home.





Find the piece of nature
below...or find a clue!

Turtle Trek Edition!



N Head of
Long Pond _____



Snapping Turtle
Nest _____



Wetland
Plants _____



Sandy Hillside



Spotted
or Painted Turtle

Turtle Tag

Instructions:

- You'll need at least 3 people to play.
- Select an open outside area to play.
- Choose one person to be the predator and the rest are turtles. Whoever is the predator will try to tag the turtles. Once a turtle is tagged, they have to lay down and 'hide in their shell' until another turtle tags them to revive them.
- The game is over when all of the turtles are stuck in their shell.
- To make the game more difficult, you can have certain areas be water and others land. If a turtle is in the water, they can swim fast (run), but if a turtle is on land they have to move in slow motion (walk). Turtles can only stay in the water for five seconds and then they have to go to land, since turtles need to breathe air.

This game emulates a turtle's natural defense mechanism and adaptability to both water and land.



Create Your Own Turtle

Materials:

- Paper Bowl
- Pipe Cleaner Pieces (four of one color, two of another color)
- Bamboo Skewer (or other object to poke holes)
- Crayons or other drawing implements

Instructions:

Create your own turtle with the provided materials! Follow the steps below.

1. Place the paper bowl upside down. Poke six holes in the bowl with your skewer, three in the front and three in the back. You may need to wiggle the skewer around a bit to make the hole large enough for a pipe cleaner to fit in. For both the front and the back, you want one hole in the middle, one on the right side, and one on the left.
2. Begin assembling the legs. Use the pipe cleaner pieces that you have four of the same color. Place the pipe cleaner through the hole, bend it so the two ends are the same length, and twist it to hold it in place. Take the two ends and roll them up to make it look like a foot. Repeat with the other three legs.
3. For the head and tail use the other-colored pipe cleaner pieces. For the head, loop the pipe cleaner into the hole and twist it one time to fasten. Then join the ends in a circle and elongate the head so it is more of an oval shape. For the tail, loop the last pipe cleaner piece into the back hole and twist it repeatedly so that it appears to be a single piece. You may want to place a few bends in the tail as well, if you like the way that looks.

4. Finally, using crayons or other drawing implements, decorate the back of the shell with whatever pattern you like. Feel free to name your turtle and celebrate your achievement!

