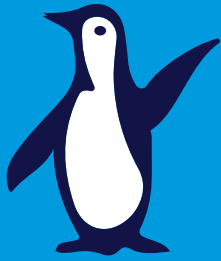


STAY HOME



with  SHEDD AQUARIUM



Habitat Hero



Some turtles can be speedy on land, but obstacles can make it challenging to move around their habitat. In this activity you will identify the physical barriers that prohibit turtles from finding a successful nesting site. As a Habitat Hero, you will develop solutions to common problems found in turtle habitats. After you complete this activity, you can complete your Habitat Hero Certificate and share your designs with us.

These activities are designed for families with children in grades 3-5. Educators can see an overview of all activities and classroom recommendations at sheddaquarium.org/files/turtle-teachers-guide.



Habitat Hero

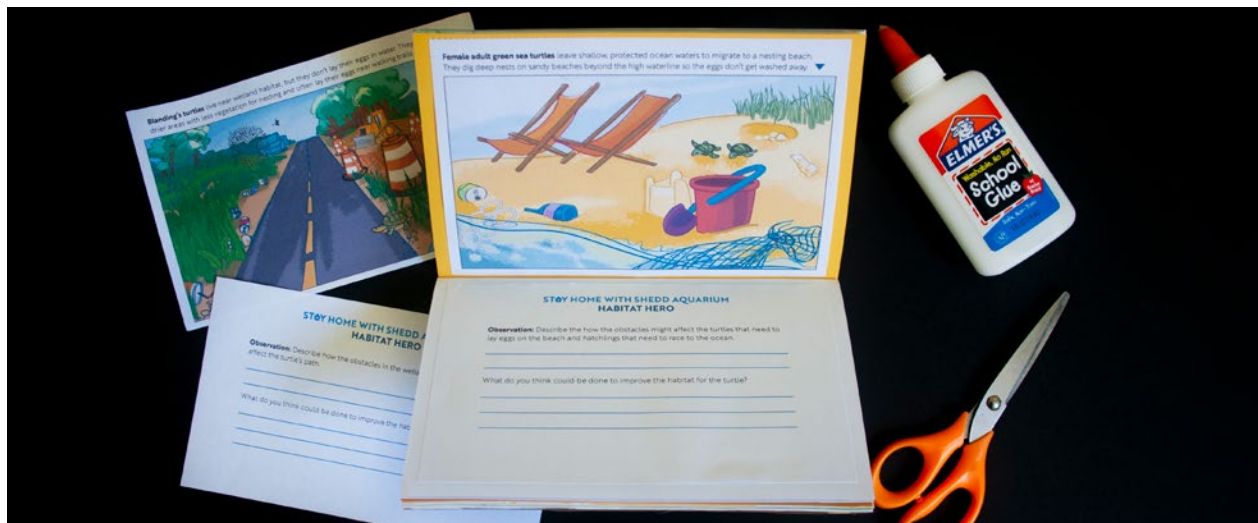
MATERIALS

- **Science journal:** See instructions on how to make a science journal at sheddaquarium.org/files/science-journal or make your own notes on a piece of paper
- **Writing and coloring devices:** pencil, pen, markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- **Turtle obstacle activity sheets:** Copy down as we go along or print out the sheets on pages 6 and 7
- **Habitat Hero certificate** printed or accessed online (optional)



INSTRUCTIONS PART 1/4

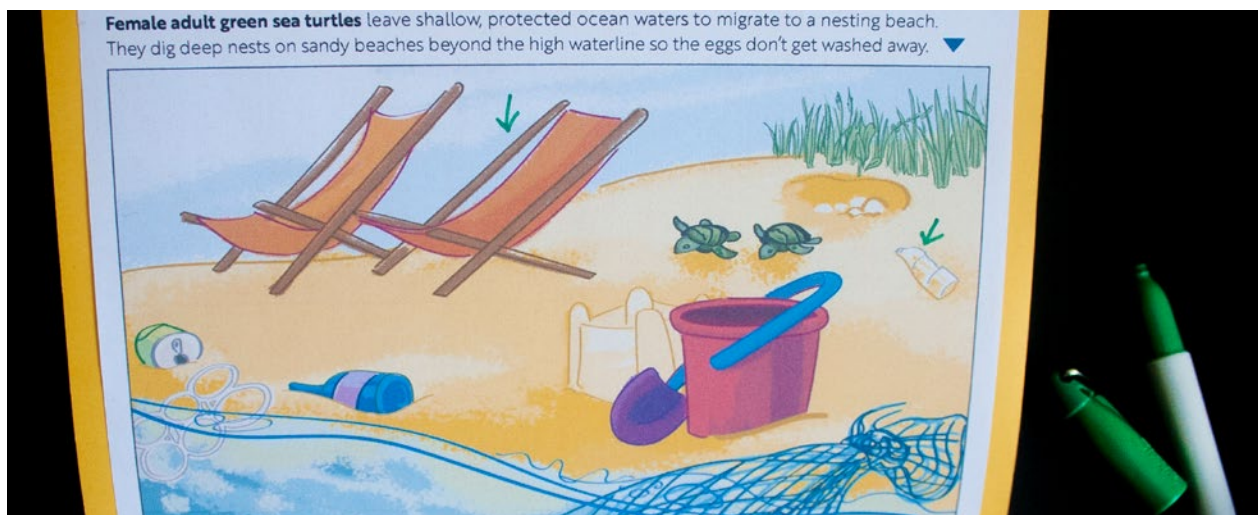
Step 1 • Science journal: Print and cut out the activity sheets on pages 6 and 7. If you don't want to print them, you can also use these sheets as a reference as we go along.



Habitat Hero

INSTRUCTIONS PART 2/4

Step 2 • Science journal: Look at the two pictures on the activity sheets and circle the obstacles that you think might cause problems for turtles traveling to or from their nesting sites. If you do not want to print the sheets, use the activity sheet as a reference and make a list of the obstacles in your science journal or on a blank sheet of paper.



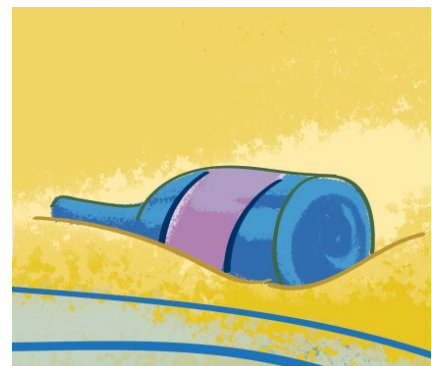
Step 3 • Science journal: On the activity sheet or in your science journal, describe how the obstacles might affect the turtles' pathways through their habitat. Think of how you could improve the habitat for the turtle in each of the pictures.



What if the turtle thinks that this is food?



Could a baby turtle become tangled up?



What could happen if this was between a baby turtle and the sea?



Habitat Hero

INSTRUCTIONS PART 3/4

Step 4 • Science journal: Now you will determine solutions to solve the problems that you identified in the pictures.

- Choose one of the pictures on pages 6 or 7 (wetland or beach).
- Review the issues that you discovered with a partner, like a family member or friend.
- Talk about ways to solve those problems (refer to the Improving Turtle Nesting Habitats suggestions below for possible strategies).
- Draw improvements and solutions to the obstacles on the picture.
- If you were unable to print the activity sheet, draw your ideas in your science journal or on a blank sheet of paper



IMPROVING TURTLE NESTING HABITATS

Prevention

- Add additional trash and recycling containers near wild areas.
- Post signs or infographics informing the public of how their behaviors can influence turtles.
- Create bridges between turtle habitats and nesting sites so turtles can avoid obstacles.
- Design road signs that prompt drivers to slow down and stop for turtle crossings during nesting season.

Restoration

- Smooth out surfaces along common turtle pathways by filling in holes to avoid pitfalls
- Pick up trash and dispose of it in proper containers.
- Care for and restore wetlands and shorelines to improve nesting sites.
- Remove items like beach chairs, tires and fishing debris (nets, buoys, fishing line) from turtle crossings.



Habitat Hero

INSTRUCTIONS PART 4/4

Last Step: Show off your commitment to conservation by pledging to take action and support healthy habitats for turtles! Color and fill out the certificate on page 8 showing you are a Habitat Hero.

There are many ways that you can help improve habitats for turtles and other animals. Below are some ideas about how you can be a Habitat Hero in your area!



BE A HABITAT HERO!

- **Participate in a beach or shoreline clean-up.** You can learn about and sign up for Shedd Aquarium Action Days at sheddaquarium.org/actiondays.
- **Create an infographic** about turtle conservation actions to help spread the word!
- **Reduce plastic pollution.** Learn more at sheddaquarium.org/plastic.
- **Investigate the 30x30 initiative.** Visit sheddaquarium.org/stories/earth-day-2020#community to learn more!
- **Keep dogs on leashes** on beaches during sea turtle nesting season.
- **Adopt a sea turtle** and support Shedd Aquarium’s mission by visiting sheddaquarium.org/adopt.

SHARE WITH US!

We want to see what you made!
Share your drawing pages and Habitat Hero certificate with us **@SheddLearning** using **#StayHomeWithShedd**.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE!

Your feedback helps us create new content for you and your family to enjoy from home.
surveyMonkey.com/r/StayHomeShedd

Blanding's turtles live near wetland habitat, but they don't lay their eggs in water. They prefer drier areas with less vegetation for nesting and often lay their eggs near walking trails or roads. ▼



STAY HOME WITH SHEDD AQUARIUM HABITAT HERO

Observation: Describe how the obstacles in the wetland or grassy habitats might affect the turtle's path.

What do you think could be done to improve the habitat for the turtle?

Female adult green sea turtles leave shallow, protected ocean waters to migrate to a nesting beach. They dig deep nests on sandy beaches beyond the high waterline so the eggs don't get washed away. ▼



STAY HOME WITH SHEDD AQUARIUM HABITAT HERO

Observation: Describe how the obstacles might affect the turtles that need to lay eggs on the beach and hatchlings that need to race to the ocean.

What do you think could be done to improve the habitat for the turtle?



STAY HOME WITH SHEDD

I'm a Habitat Hero!

Pledge to protect wildlife habitats with Shedd Aquarium

YOUR NAME HERE

pledges to

HOW WILL YOU PROTECT WILDLIFE HABITATS?



#StayHomeWithShedd