



Sea Turtles and Their Ecosystem

Duration 7:14

STEAM Curriculum Lesson Extension:

Back to the Future, 8th Grade

Produced by [Sea Turtle, Inc.](http://SeaTurtleInc.com)

Goal

Students will learn about the vital role sea turtles play in their ecosystem, how humans have affected their well-being and what can be done to counteract the negative influence.

Overview

Khrystyne explains the importance of the many varieties of sea turtles inhabiting Laguna Madre off of the Gulf of Mexico on the Texas coast. She will introduce students to two of the sea turtles recovering at their facility and discuss how human actions have threatened the health of sea turtles.

Connections to EarthX STEAM Curriculum Lesson: *Back to the Future*

As more humans settled the western part of the United States in the 1800's, they had both a positive and negative impact on the ecosystems they found. When a negative impact was made, it affected multiple organisms. Sea turtles are experiencing similar effects from negative human interaction as well.

Guiding Questions

- What one word would you use to describe a sea turtle's presence on the Texas coast and why would you use it?
- How would the Texas coast ecosystem change without a healthy sea turtle population?
- Whether you live by the ocean or are a landlocked land lover, what can you do to bring balance to the ocean ecosystem?

Vocabulary

- Ecosystem
- Foraging ground
- Migrate
- Productivity
- Nutrient Content
- Sponges
- Overcompete
- Entanglement

Standards

Next Generation Science

- 5-ESS3-1
- MS-LS2-4
- MS-ESS3-4

TEKS Science Objectives

- 5.b.9b
- 7.b.10b
- 8.b.11c