



Image from USFWS

Creating a Volunteer Flyer

5Es Lesson by Sandie Nichols

National Science Standards

Content Standard: Level 5-8

Unifying Concepts and Processes

- > Change, constancy, and measurement
- > Evolution and equilibrium

Life Science

- > Populations and ecosystems

Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

- > Populations, resources, and environments
- > Risks and benefits

Background

All sea turtles are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Many sea turtle populations around the world have been declining in recent history, while a few are stable or increasing. In South Carolina, the local loggerhead population is threatened by development on the nesting beaches, as well as from other human actions such as commercial fishing practices and litter. In order to combat these and other threats, management programs have been created and implemented to help protect the nests that are laid on South Carolina beaches. The state's Department of Natural Resources oversees the efforts of the management programs in this area.

Many characteristics about a sea turtle's life history make them uniquely susceptible to negative impacts from human actions. The fact that they are a late-maturing species means that a female must survive for about 30 years before she is able to reproduce. Also, their global migration patterns make it impossible for any one country to protect them- it must be an international, concerted effort. The behavior of [natal imprinting](#) could also pose potential problems for a local population. A female loggerhead that hatched from a beach in South Carolina will have few acceptable areas to nest when she returns to the area to lay her own eggs 40 years from now, when she has reached maturity.

The purpose of this activity is to get students to think critically about human-induced impacts on sea turtle populations and to consider ways to help citizens realize the extent of the problem and, more importantly, how they can help alleviate the threats.

Activity

ENGAGE Ask the students to review the Management PhotoDocumentary. The class will discuss the plight of the loggerhead sea turtle and possible ways to rejuvenate the population.

EXPLORE Students will brainstorm and discuss possible ways to enlist the help of the community to support the work of the volunteer organizations that are contributing to the protection of loggerhead turtles and their habitat.

EXPLICATE Students will decide upon an avenue of enlistment or recruitment to ask community members for help. They will create an attractive slogan or opportunity for the public to become involved with turtle protection and management. The focus will be on educating the public and enlisting their help.

ELABORATE Students will create a pamphlet or flyer that encourages the public to help and gives specific facts about the fate of loggerheads and the impact humans have on the population.

EVALUATE The pamphlet or flyer will be evaluated using the rubric provided. Groups can choose the best and forward them to an organization that protects loggerhead sea turtles.

Rubric for evaluation:

Slogan or opportunity	(5 points)	
Specific facts	(5 points)	
Impact on environment	(5 points)	
Enlists public help	(5 points)	
TOTAL:	20 points	