



# ZIPPITY ZOO TURTLES!

## PRE/POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES



GRADE LEVEL: Pre-Kindergarten

### Goal of Zoo Program:

Explore the world of turtles through shared reading, live animal interactions, and interactive games.

### Objective of Zoo Program:

- Develop an awareness of books through shared reading.
- Show a steady increase in listening and speaking vocabulary about turtles.
- Observe a living turtle to become aware of the physical attributes of turtles.
- Participate in a group movement activity coordinated with the shared reading selection.

### Curriculum Guidelines for Pre/Post-Visit Activities:

#### Physical Movement

- Begins to move in rhythm
- Explores moving in space

#### Science

- Describes characteristics of living things

#### Mathematics

- Count concrete objects to five or higher
- Begins to name "how many" are in a group of up to 3 (or more) objects without counting

#### Art

- Uses a variety of materials to create original artwork

### Suggested Literature Connections:

#### Turtle Splash! Countdown at the Pond by Catherine Falwell

*This lovely countdown features Eastern Painted Turtles and various insects, birds, and mammals sharing a pond habitat. As each new creature appears on the scene, one more turtle jumps off the log and into the water. Eventually, the blue sky of day gives way to rose and purple shades and all 10 tired turtles are underwater to "settle for the night." This is pleasing fare for reading aloud and offers an inviting early nature lesson.*

#### Splash! by Ann Jonas

*In this picture book, which cleverly handles the principles of addition and subtraction, a young girl keeps track of what's going on in her backyard. At the bottom of the page, the narrator asks, "How many are in my pond?" Then, in the following page, the peaceful scene is disrupted when the turtle jumps into the water and a wave of water splashes out. Each successive page introduces more chaos, as all the animals, including the pet cat and pet dog, jump in (or fall in) the water or climb out. The number of animals in the water changes with each turn of the page, and careful readers/viewers can have fun counting while they follow the natural reactions of the animals to each other. A clever concept book that captures the heat and drama of a sunny summer day.*



**ZIPPITY ZOO TURTLE** GRADE LEVEL: Pre-Kindergarten



## Pre-Visit Activities:

### **Snack Suggestion: Turtle Floats**

You'll need:

- 1 clear cup, straw, and spoon per student
- 1 gallon of lime sherbet and an ice cream scoop
- Blue soda (or lime soda)
- M&M's or marshmallows (2 per student)

Give each child a clear cup filled with lime sherbet, blue soda, a straw, and M&M's or marshmallows to represent the turtle's two eyes.

### **Activity 1: Animal Rhythm**

*Materials*

- None

*Teacher Preparation*

- None

Some animals move fast while some move slow. It should be no surprise that the box turtle, the turtle which your class will see in the program, is not well known for its incredible speed! Have students gather in circle time, and when you call out different animal names, they should slap their hands repeatedly on their legs to show you how fast or slow each of the animals go. For instance, a turtle may be really slow while a mosquito would be really fast! Some examples of animals are toad, turtle, fish, bird, bee, crow, cricket, lizard, and spider.

### **Activity 2: Feed the Turtle!**

*Materials*

- Cricket Number cards (see attached)
- Optional: picture of a turtle glued on a shoebox

*Teacher Preparation*

- Cut the Cricket number cards.
- Optional: Make the turtle box

In advance, discuss the cricket number cards with your students. Have your students sit down and close their eyes and hide number cards around the room. Have children search the room to find the numbers. When they find the numbers they arrange them in order. This activity can also be played in the schoolyard where more exciting hiding places can be found. When they have all of the number cards in order, ask your students to feed the turtle with the crickets in order. You can even make a turtle (turtle picture glued to a shoebox) with a mouth cut out.

## Post-Visit Activities:

### **Snack Suggestion: Worms in the Mud**

You'll need:

- Chocolate pudding
- Gummy worms
- Bowls



Some turtles consider worms their favorite snack! Hide gummy worms in the “mud” (the chocolate pudding) and have your students fish them out for a fun snacktime treat!

### **Activity 1: Little Turtle of Mine**

#### *Materials*

- White paper bowl or small paper plate (1 per student)
- Crayons
- 1 Turtle template (attached) per student (you can pre-cut as an option)
- Glue sticks
- Scissors (optional)

#### *Teacher Preparation*

- Optional: You can pre-cut the turtle template (attached) for each student

Give each student a white paper bowl or small paper plate and crayons. Turn the bowl upside down and have the students color their ‘turtle shells’ and their turtle parts (from the attached template). Remember that turtle shells have lots of different shapes and colors on them. Have them glue the parts onto the rim of the “shell.”

### **Activity 2: Turtle Obstacle Course**

#### *Materials*

- Empty cardboard box
- Green and brown markers or paint

#### *Teacher Preparation*

- Make your turtle shell by taking an empty cardboard box, turning it upside down, and cutting out a large space for the neck to pass through in one end and small indentations along the bottom sides for arms and legs to go through. You can add paint or use markers to make it more realistic!

Have your students wear the shell while on their hands and knees, challenging them to crawl through a make-shift obstacle course outside or in your classroom! A turtle’s life is not so easy! A stretchy band or yarn can be placed across the middle of the box to help keep the shell on better.

### **Activity 3: There Was a Little Turtle**

#### *Materials*

- None

#### *Teacher Preparation*

- None

Read the following poem out loud to your students. Read the poem again, adding in the motions. Have the students pick out words that rhyme with each other during the reading of the poem, too.



*There Was a Little Turtle*

There was a little turtle (make a small circle with your hands)  
He lived in a box, (make a box with both hands)  
He splashed in a puddle, (wiggle hands)  
He climbed on the rocks. (climb fingers of one hand up over the other)  
He snapped at a mosquito, (clap hands)  
He snapped at a flea, (clap hands)  
He snapped at a minnow, (clap hands)  
He snapped at me. (point to yourself)  
He caught the mosquito, (mimic catching a bug)  
He caught the flea (same action)  
He caught the minnow, (same action)  
But he didn't catch me! (shake your first finger back and forth in a "no-no" fashion)

Vocabulary Flashcards:

TURTLE	A reptile having horny, toothless beak, and a bony or leathery shell
BEAK	The horny, projecting structure forming the mouth
SHELL	A hard outer covering, such as that of a turtle, mollusk, insect, egg, etc.
BACKBONE	The column of bones, along the center of the back of vertebrate animals, that protects the spine





Turtle Shapes Template for *Little Turtle of Mine* Craft

