



Tortoise and Turtles

Virtual Classroom Extension

Objectives

These activities are designed to start your at-home students in recognizing themselves as scientists and in thinking critically about problem-solving. The goal is to teach concepts through discovery and to encourage using scientific thought processes. Feel free to adapt the lessons provided to better suit your students' abilities. Take these ideas, make them your own, and your students will have a greater chance of success.

Materials

- Story books about turtles and tortoises
- Pictures of turtles and tortoises
- Paper, pencil, and crayons

Vocabulary

Turtle, tortoise, reptile, smell, taste, touch, hear, vision, adaptation, senses, habitat

Background Information

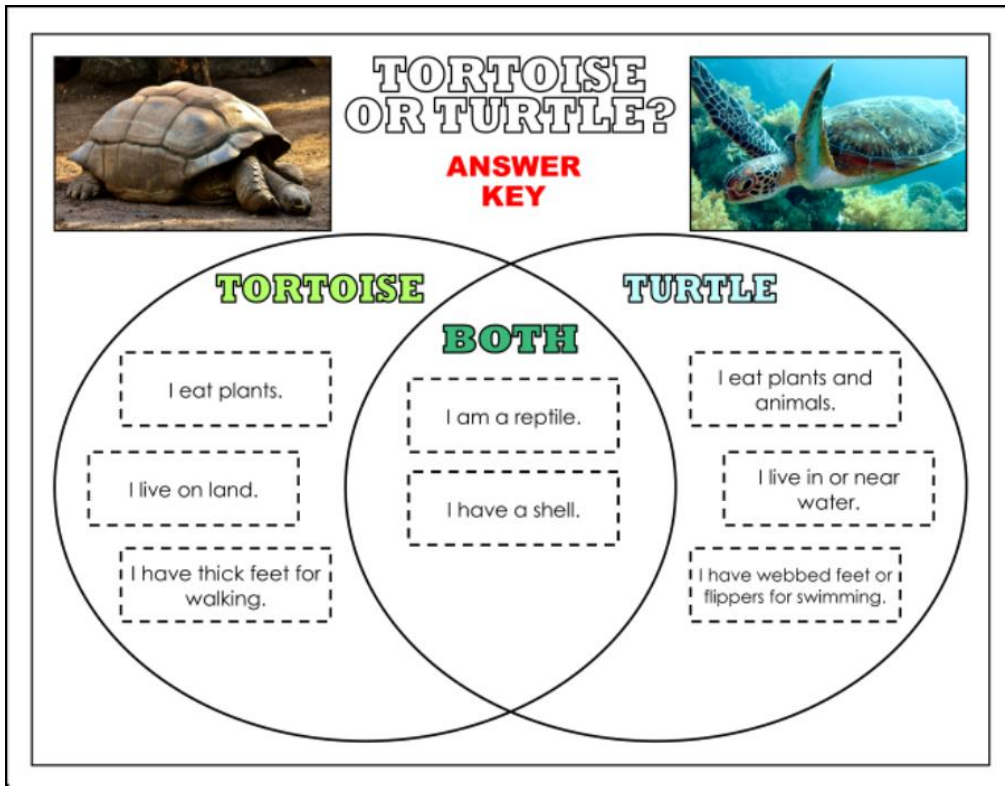
The study of animal behavior is called ethology and it can help scientists better understand animals. This understanding provides valuable knowledge that informs how to best care for animals in zoos, as well as inform conservation efforts to help species overall. Observing animal behavior can be a fun activity to compare how different animals or types of animals move and use their senses. Our five senses help us interpret the world around us. Senses also allow animals to see, feel, hear, taste, and smell within their habitat. For this activity, at-home students will be able to describe the physical characteristics that distinguish turtles and tortoises and how they use their senses as they explore their habitat.

Procedure

1. Begin this activity by asking your at-home students how do your five senses work? How do they help in everyday life?
2. Sensory organs take information and send it to the brain, which interprets the information. Have the students point to the organs associated with each sense.
 - We see with our eyes
 - Hear with our ears
 - Touch with our skin
 - Taste with our tongue
 - Smell with our nose
3. Take a piece of paper and divide the paper into six sections and label, as shown below.

My Home:	What I see in my home:	What my home feels like:
What I can hear in my home:	What it tastes like when home:	What I can smell in my home:

4. Students can fill in each box what their answer and/or draw pictures of their answers.
5. Why do other animals need senses? For the same reasons as we do. Senses help all animals adjust themselves in their environments, to find food, to escape from danger, and to find others of their own kind. Non-human animals may have senses that humans do not have. For example, most birds can see ultraviolet light while humans cannot. On the other hand, humans have a better sense of smell than most birds.
6. Read stories and fact books about turtles and tortoises. Also utilize Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's Online Resource Library at <https://resourcelibrary.clemetzoo.com/> for information.
7. Find pictures of and information about a freshwater turtle, sea turtle, and tortoise. What do they have in common? How are they different? Use a 3-part Venn diagram or other graphic organizer to capture students' ideas.
8. Connect these observations to each animal's life history. Where do sea turtles live? Why would they need flippers? Which animals have a streamlined shell for swimming quickly? Which have a domed shell that offers extra protection from predators?
9. Create a Venn diagram of the similarities and differences between turtles and tortoises
 - You can get as in-depth as you like with your students. See sample ideas below.



10. Turtles and tortoises can live a very long time. It would be great to hear a turtle or tortoise adventure. Create a written and/or picture story of your turtle or tortoise. Use a sheet of paper and divide paper into sections, like previous activity. This activity can be adjusted to your students' level. Starter questions below can be formulated into sentences and/or paragraphs.

- Name your turtle or tortoise.
- Where does your animal live? Draw or write about your habitat.
- What would your turtle or tortoise experience in their habitat?
- What would your turtle or tortoise see, feel, hear, taste and smell in their habitat?

Sample Story Starter

My animal's name is and I live...	My animal sees...	My animal feels what...
My animal hears what...	My animal tastes what...	My animal smells what...

Ohio's Learning Standards

Science Content Standards

Grade K Life Science Topic: Physical and Behavioral Traits of Living Things

K.LS.2: Living things have physical traits and behaviors, which influence their survival.

English Language Arts Content Standards

Grade K Writing standards: Text Types and Purposes

W.K.2: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts that name what is being written about and supply some information about the topic.