

Kemp's Ridley Habitat Lesson Plan

Activity: Kemp's Ridley Habitat

Adapted From: Designing a Habitat, Project Wild Aquatic

Grade Level: 5-12

Time Required: one and ½ 90 minute blocks or three 45 minute class periods

Objectives:

- (1) Students will identify the components of a habitat that are essential for Kemp's ridley turtles to survive.
- (2) Students will use their knowledge of habitat to create a model an idea habitat for the Kemp's ridley turtle

Key Terms:

habitat

Method:

Students will design a habitat suitable for juvenile sea turtles to survive.

Materials:

art supplies, writing materials, papier mache', modeling clay, cardboard boxes, gallon jars, string, cardboard, cardboard boxes, sand, and anything else interesting you can find.

Procedure:

1. Divide students into teams of 2-4
2. Provide each team with the following articles: From Ghosts to Key Species: *Restoring Sea Turtle Populations to Fulfill their Ecological Roles*, and *Diet of Immature Kemp's Ridley Turtles*. Encourage students to consult additional sources as well.
3. Each team will be responsible for designing an ideal habitat in which either an adult or juvenile sea turtle could successfully live. Inform students that each team will be expected to conduct research and consult reference materials or resource people to determine the life requirements of the juvenile turtles. In addition, students will investigate and establish the characteristics of the natural habitat of the animals.
4. When the research is complete, each team of students is to design and build a model or small replica of habitat that would be suitable to a Kemp's ridley's survival.
5. Once the models are complete, each team will present their model to the class. Each report should include a description of the basic biological needs of the turtle as well as a description of the characteristics of its natural habitat.
6. Ask the students to summarize the components of the habitat that seemed to be necessary for survival of either the adult or juvenile turtle.