Lesson 1: Shelly's Beach Needs You

UNIT: Saving Sea Turtles

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Anne. I want to tell you about a memory I have from when I was eight years old. One time, I went to the beach near my aunt's house. I remember being so excited to get in the water. The waves were huge and intense, but I jumped in anyway.

Years later, I learned this beach is special for another reason, too. Take a look at what happens in the summer at this beach.

The beach where I swam is actually a place where sea turtles dig their nests and lay their eggs. These adorable babies then hatch from their eggs and then flop their way toward the ocean.

As a writer, I like to imagine what happens next.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What do you think happens when the baby sea turtles get to the ocean?

HOOK 2

Here's what happens—these babies swim out to sea, find food, and grow big and strong. They will spend most of their lives out at sea, swimming thousands of miles to find things to eat. But when they're all grown up, the turtles that hatched on this beach

will return to this spot to make their nests and have babies of their own. I think that's amazing!

I can imagine a sea turtle that hatched here thirty years ago—I'll call her Shelly—she's all grown up now and ready to make a nest of her own. When Shelly hatched, the beach looked like this. One year she returned to the beach, and it looked like this. Another year, it looked like this. Shelly isn't sure if this beach is safe for her babies anymore.

Right now, you're probably thinking a lot about what it would be like to be a baby sea turtle on this beach. The problem is when most people go to the beach, they don't think about Shelly and her babies. People go to the beach to have fun, building sandcastles, surfing, or playing games. They might not know that some of the things they do make the beach unsafe for sea turtles. Most people like sea turtles and would be happy to help them, but they don't know how to do it.

You are going to learn about how to help sea turtles. Once you know what to do, how could you share that information with other people?

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: Can you think of some ways that we could share this information with others?

HOOK 3

Maybe you said, "We could tell them." That's a great idea! The problem is, it would be pretty hard to travel to every beach, every day, telling every person about sea turtles.

> *- Everyone listen! We must save the sea turtles. We must save the sea turtles. Save the turtles!!*

Maybe you suggested writing about sea turtles, like making a sign or a flyer full of tips for how to help. You may have come up with other ideas, too.

Writing is a great way to share information with lots of people all at once.

Everyone who reads your writing can learn what they can do to help baby sea turtles.

I need your help to create a guidebook for people visiting Shelly's Beach. You'll gather information about what people can do to make her beach safe for her and her babies. Then you'll create a booklet that teaches people everywhere what they can do to help.

You'll hear from some experts today to gather ideas for your guidebook, and you'll take your notes on a drawing of Shelly's beach.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

To get some ideas, I talked to Oscar. He's a scientist who studies the ocean and everything in it. Listen to what he told me. He said:

> "To help sea turtles, you need to think like a sea turtle. Jellyfish are one of sea turtles' favorite foods. Plastic bags in the ocean can look a lot like jellyfish."

Oscar showed me a game where we can imagine being a hungry sea turtle. I'll show you two pictures. You try to guess which picture is a jellyfish. Vote with your fingers by showing a 1 or a 2.

I'll give you several seconds to decide.

Ready?

Go!

It was this one. The other one was a plastic bag.

Let's play again. Vote with your fingers to show which one you think is a jellyfish.

Ready?

Go!

It was this one.

For a turtle, telling the difference between a jellyfish and a plastic bag can be really hard.

That's why it's so important that people use fewer plastic bags and make sure they don't end up in the ocean. Powerful winds can take bags and other trash from your community all the way to the ocean.

STEP 4

Get your Beach Picture worksheet.

After hearing what Oscar said, I looked at the picture of the beach to see if there was anything not safe for sea turtles. I noticed there is a plastic bag.

If you see the plastic bag in the picture, circle it.

STEP 5

It's right there, blowing toward the ocean.

If you didn't already do so, go ahead and circle it on your picture.

Next, discuss it with your talk partner: What is something that people can do to help keep sea turtles safe from plastic bags that look like jellyfish?

If you need a reminder of what Oscar said, we've put it on the screen.

STEP 6

Under my beach picture, I wrote down some ideas for how people can help sea turtles. I wrote:

- keep plastic bags out of the ocean

And

- use fewer plastic bags

Now, it's your turn to write some ways people can help. You can use my ideas if you want or write your own.

STEP 7

Here's our second expert, Lucy the lifeguard. Listen to what she told me:

> "This sand castle may look small to you, but to a baby sea turtle, it would look like this. And this hole may not seem that big to you, but to a baby sea turtle, it

would look like this. Big sandcastles and deep holes can stop baby sea turtles from getting to the ocean." Lucy says.

She wishes more people would knock over their sandcastles and fill in the holes they dug before they leave the beach. Sand castles and holes in the sand can block a baby turtle's path to the ocean.

Think about what Lucy just told you. Look at the beach picture again.

If you see a new problem, circle it.

STEP 8

Think about how someone could help fix this problem. Discuss with your partner, then write down your ideas.

If you need a reminder of what Lucy said, we've put it on the screen.

STEP 9

Here's our last expert, Vicky the volunteer. Listen to what she told me:

> "Baby sea turtles hatch at night and use the light of the moon to help them find the ocean. Sometimes, human lights like this one can look just like the moon."

Vicky showed me a game where we can imagine being a baby sea turtle. I'll show you two pictures, and you try to guess which picture shows the moon.

Vote with your fingers by showing a 1 or a 2. I'll give you several seconds to decide.

Ready?

Go!

This one is the moon. The other light was actually someone holding a flashlight.

Let's play again.

Vote with your fingers to show which picture shows the moon.

Ready?

Go!

This one is the moon. The other light is actually the light from a helicopter.

We need to keep our beaches dark at night—turn off flashlights and all other lights. When baby sea turtles hatch, they will follow the brightest light. If they follow human made lights, they can end up wandering away from the ocean.

Your picture of the beach is in the daytime. Here's what it looks like at night. After hearing from Vicky, circle anything you see in your daytime picture that will become a problem at night.

STEP 10

Think about how someone could help fix the problem. Discuss with your partner, then write down your ideas.

If you need a reminder of what Vicky said, we've put it on the screen.

STEP 11

Now you've heard from three experts who know a lot about how people can help sea turtles.

Choose two ways people can help that you'd like to include in your guidebook. Then draw a smiley face next to the ideas you chose.

STEP 12

The papers shown on the screen are V.I.P.s—very important papers. Your teacher will tell you where to put them so you will have them for the next lesson.

WRAP UP

Shelly is thrilled that you are going to help make her beach safe for her and her babies. She's on her way to the beach to make her nest.

We'll check in with her next lesson as we begin our first draft of our guidebooks.

I'll see you next time.