

Indoor Activity: What do sea turtles eat?

Did you know that most species of sea turtles are omnivores? This means they eat an assortment of things throughout their lifetime. Algae, seaweed, fish, shrimp, crabs, sea sponges, and JELLIES!

Sea turtles often mistake plastic for common food items and eat it. This can make it hard for them to digest food afterward.

This month, we will recycle some plastic items to create an awesome decoration piece that can help you inform others about why sea turtles may consume plastics.

Materials:

- Plastic soda/water bottle
- Clear plastic bag
- Scissors
- Blue food coloring
- String
- Water

What to do:

- Cut the handles and advertising off your plastic bag.
- Cut the sides and bottom of the bag.
(You should be left with two plastic squares)
- Take the middle of one plastic square and ball it up in between your fingers to create a bubble.
- The bubble will be your jellies' bell.
- Loosely tie a piece of string around the bottom end of that bubble.
(Be sure to allow air and water to mix in that bubble, this will allow your jelly to swim)
- Cut the bottom end of your jelly into strips. (This will create tentacles)
- Add water and a drop of blue food coloring to your bottle.
- Gently place your jelly into its new home.
- Be sure not to add too many jellies into one bottle so they have space to swim!



Outdoor Activity: Turtle Safe Space

Box turtles are a vital part of the ecosystem, they can tell us how healthy that ecosystem is. They play the role of an indicator species and act as bio-monitors for environmental impacts to the area. They have powerful immune systems and diseases that would harm other animals, do not affect them as much. If their population is decreasing, we can tell that there are heavy impacts to the environment.

Box turtle populations are considered vulnerable in many states due to habitat loss and collection by humans. However, there are many steps we can take to help box turtle populations thrive. You can even help defend the turtles from the comfort of your backyard.

Materials:

- Shovel
- Trowel
- Leaf Litter
- Tree Bark
- Mulch
- Branches

What to do:

1. Select an area in your yard (at least 3ft x 2ft).
2. Use garden tools to loosen the soil (around 4 inches deep).
3. Mix leaf litter, mulch, and pieces of wood bark to create an organic pile over the soil.
4. Add sturdy branches for the turtles to climb over or burrow under.

