



Sea Turtle Rescue • Study Guide

The Blue World team learns how sea turtles, mostly critically endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, get caught in Massachusetts bay at the end of the summer and become stranded due to falling water temperatures. Then volunteers from the Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary collect the stranded turtles on the beach and bring them to the New England Aquarium's animal care facility where they are nursed back to health. Finally the sea healthy sea turtles go back to Florida for release to the wild with the help of Sea World.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the biology and life cycle of sea turtles.
2. Illustrates the challenges that sea turtles face to survive and reproduce.
3. Introduces viewers to threats facing sea turtles.

Questions for before watching the program

1. As reptiles, what are some challenges that sea turtles might face in the ocean?
2. What is a "cold blooded" animal? What happens when "cold blooded" animals like reptiles get too cold?
3. Do sea turtles migrate? Why might they migrate?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. Why do some sea turtles head north during the summer?
2. What natural ocean current assists the sea turtles in their northward progression?
3. What natural feature forms an obstacle that traps some sea turtles when they try to swim south in the fall?
4. What happens to the trapped sea turtles as the water temperature cools?
5. Why is the wind sometimes a blessing to lethargic sea turtles?
6. What species of sea turtle is most often rescued in Massachusetts, and why is it so important to save this species?
7. Why is the "banana box" a great sea turtle transportation device?