

Lesson Plan: Tortoise vs Turtle

1. Essential Question:

What is the difference between a tortoise and a turtle?

2. **Standards:**

Science:

2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants or animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

Language Arts:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about *grade 2 topics and texts* with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1.A Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.2 Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

3. Objective

Students will be able to identify similarities and differences between tortoises and turtles.

4. Materials

Don't Call Me Turtle by Elaine A. Powers

Venn Diagrams

Construction Paper

Crayons

Eunice (our tortoise)

Natasha (4th grade Turtle)

6. Pre-lesson assignments and/or prior knowledge:

Students will have knowledge of what a tortoise or turtle is, as well as types reptiles. This knowledge will serve as a strong foundation for the students to build upon during this lesson. However, this knowledge is not critical for a student to be able to effectively participate in the activity. Students will be encouraged to talk and share knowledge throughout the lesson and activity, so varying levels of prior knowledge will be able to participate and learn.

7. Lesson

Discuss Eunice - do we think she is a tortoise or a turtle? What do we know about both? List ideas on the board to check and verify later.

Read *Don't Call Me Turtle* - discuss facts as you read. Verify facts included in brainstorming. Use Eunice and Natasha to point out differences.

Facts to cover:

- Turtles swim / tortoises do not
- Both have shells
- Tortoise shells are heavier and have a higher dome
- Both have skeletons
- Both have carapaces, plastrons and bridges
- Turtles eat meat
- Tortoises eat mainly grasses
- Both lay eggs

Upon completion - give the class a Venn-Diagram to complete. They must have 3 facts for each part of the diagram.

Extensions:

- Draw a diagram of both a tortoise and a turtle labeling the parts of each.
- Use Factcite or PebbleGo to research to further research tortoises and turtles.