

Resource: 2. Looking after Sea Animals      Appendix: 2.1 – Sea Turtle Script

## Sea Turtle Script

The teacher shows the children a soft toy or hand puppet of a sea turtle.

Teacher: Children today we have a special guest!

Sea Turtle (ST): Hello boys and girls! How are you? I am fine thank you and so happy to be here. I don't usually come to school as I am not a child like you and I don't live on land like you. Do you know what I am?

Students: A sea turtle.

ST: And does anyone know where I live?

Students: In the sea.

ST: Yes, exactly! Today I am paying you a visit and this summer some sea turtles also visited Malta and laid eggs in nests on some beaches.

And do you know what happened to those eggs in the nests? (They hatched.) Exactly! And now we are going to watch a short video about some baby sea turtles that hatched in Mellieħa Bay. (video link on lesson plan 1)

Can you guess why so many sea turtles hatch from one nest? Usually if it was a bird we would have about 3 or 4 baby birds. But about 90 baby sea turtles hatch from a sea turtle nest. Can you guess why?

Students: (Several answers. The educator prompts them till they arrive to the right answer.) Sea turtles face many dangers and only a few survive and grow up.

ST: As soon as they hatch, the hatchlings swim into the sea. Some drown, others are eaten by big crabs, seabirds or bigger fish. A number of them get hurt and it is often people's fault.

Let me explain. I think you all know what is one of our favourite foods – jellyfish! When we are swimming some sea turtles think they have seen a jellyfish and swim towards it. Yet when they catch it they realise it is a plastic bag and when they swallow it, they suffocate and die. The plastic bags that end up are not all thrown in the sea but sometimes people throw the bag in the bin and the wind blows it into the sea. So people should work on reducing waste like plastic bags and use cloth bags instead. You can also use a lunchbox for your lunch instead of a bag and use a refillable bottle rather than a disposable one.

Sea turtles face other dangers like pieces of nylon ropes, pieces of netting, deflated balloons, bits of plastic or polystyrene cups and oil spills. When sea turtles are swimming we might find other things like a bird's feather or a small piece of wood floating on the sea. These things will not hurt us.

Luckily for some of us, when some sea turtles are sick or get hurt or stuck in litter, there are people who help us and when we get better we can go back to the sea. However not all of us make it. So it is best that you help us so we can enjoy the beautiful sea and remain healthy!

Now we will play a game together. You have a sheet with a happy and a sad sea turtle. You will be given some pictures. First think if the object in the picture will make us happy as it will not hurt us or sad if it will hurt us.