



The ocean is home to thousands of endangered species

You will need

- [Endangered animals charades cards](#)
- Tape measures
- Pieces of coloured card that can be shaped into snouts, beaks, flippers, etc.
- Scissors and glue
- Pieces of fabric to drape and make shapes of creatures

What to do

This activity supports Requirement 3 of Beavers Global Issues Activity Badge.

1. Divide into groups (up to six groups in total)
2. Each group should take an endangered animal [charades card](#).
3. The group should work together to create a 3D version of the creature described on their card. Work together to portray the size and distinctive features. If available, use card and fabric to make any distinctive features.
4. Consider how the creature moves. When ready, each group should act out their animal for the others to guess.
5. Once all the groups have had their turn, talk about why these animals are under threat. The main reasons are overfishing, being caught by mistake in fishing nets, climate change destroying their habitats, and the actions of humans, like polluting the ocean.

Reflection

When people think of endangered animals, they often forget about those that live in the sea, but over 25,000 marine species are at risk of dying out

How could your group raise awareness of the threats to marine animals?
Is there something as individuals or a group that you could do to help marine animals?

Endangered animal charades cards



European eel

European Eels have a snake-like body about 1.3m (about 4ft) long. They hide during the day under stones and in mud burrows and hunt at night. They are strong swimmers and travel at about 1.5 miles per hour. They swim about 3,000 miles in their lifetimes.



Galapagos penguin

Galapagos penguins are about 50cm tall. They are water-loving birds that cannot fly but are fast swimmers. They live at the edge of water and in small caves. They live in warm climates. To keep cool, they pant heavily and lean forward to shade their feet from the sun.



Hawksbill turtle

Hawksbill turtles have large shells and small heads with pointed beak-shaped mouths. They can't draw their heads into their shells. They have 4 flippers. Larger flippers at the front help them swim and dig. They are about 1m long.



Skate

Common skate are Britain's largest fish species. They have flat bodies with pointed snouts and long thin tails that give off electric shocks. They are long – up to 2m! They live in deep ocean waters and can be found on the seabed.



Otter

Sea otters are small, furry, clever animals that can use their front paws like hands to hold things. They have 2 pouches on their body to store the rocks that they use as tools. Their bodies are very flexible and they move quickly. They are about 4ft long.



Seahorse

Short-snouted seahorses are only about 15cm long and weigh about 200g. They have curved bodies and turned up snouts. They live in seagrass and are excellent at hiding. Young seahorses are found in groups. When seahorses get older, they find a mate for life.



Using acting skills to learn about the challenges faced by turtles

You will need

- [The journey of Turtley the Turtle script](#)

To make a turtle hatchling:

- Scissors
- Paints and brushes or pens
- Glue
- Copy of [Make your own turtle hatchling](#) instruction sheet for each person
- [Speech bubble](#) for each person
- Bottom of an egg box compartment for each person. *Please note* – good coordination skills are needed to cut the bottom of the egg compartment. You may want to cut them out in advance for everyone!

This activity supports Requirement 3 of the Beavers Global Issues Activity Badge.

What to do

Act out the story of Turtley's journey

1. The leader of the activity should read out [the journey of Turtley the Turtle](#). This is the story of a leatherback turtle who goes on a long journey to reach UK seas.
2. Everyone should act out the story, using lots of expression and energy.

Make a turtle hatchling

Each year, huge numbers of leatherback turtles are killed or injured as a result of ingesting litter or getting tangled up in it. So many are dying that they have become classed as 'critically endangered.' This means they are at very high risk of becoming extinct (dying out forever).

1. Everyone should make a tiny turtle hatchling, following the [instructions](#) on the worksheet.
2. As a group, talk about the dangers a turtle hatchling will face on its journey to adulthood and what turtle hatchlings might like to tell humans if they could speak.
3. Everyone should write a message for humans on a [speech bubble](#) and attach it to their hatchling.
4. Encourage the group to think of someone they could tell Turtley's story to, for example a friend, a family member, or a teacher at school.

Reflection

The story highlighted some of the problems faced by turtles as they swim in the ocean. How did the story make you feel? How do you feel about the amount of litter in the ocean? What could you do about the problem?

The Journey of Turtley the Turtle

Act out the story as you read it – suggested actions are included in brackets.

Far away, on a beach in Mexico, an egg is buried in the sand, safe and warm. (Crouch down and make an egg shape.)

On a dark night, the egg cracks. A tiny leatherback turtle hatchling called Turtley wriggles out. (Make cracking noises and use flippers to wriggle out.)

Turtley scuttles as fast as she can towards the sea. (Scuttle forward.)

Watch out for the crabs (snap! snap!) and dogs (snuffle, bark). Look, there's a gull!

Turtley reaches the shore. Here comes a wave. Turtley is picked up and washed into the sea. (Make wave noises as you're pulled into the sea.)

Dangerous predators are everywhere. Avoid the shark, Turtley! Watch out for the tuna! (Swerve.)

Turtley needs to grow from 2cm to 3m. She needs food. She swims the world's ocean searching for jellyfish to eat so that she can grow. (Swim around the space.)

There's a jellyfish! Quick, swim over to eat it! (Swim over and start to eat the jellyfish.)

But Turtley has poor eyesight... and... the jellyfish doesn't taste right. Ugh. It's a plastic bag floating in the ocean! (Shake heads, bleurgh.)

Turtley looks around. She's surrounded by plastic bags. Quick! Swim away. Don't get caught in the rope. Avoid the plastic bottles. Don't swallow the cigarette stubs or bits of broken plastics. (Swim, swerve.)

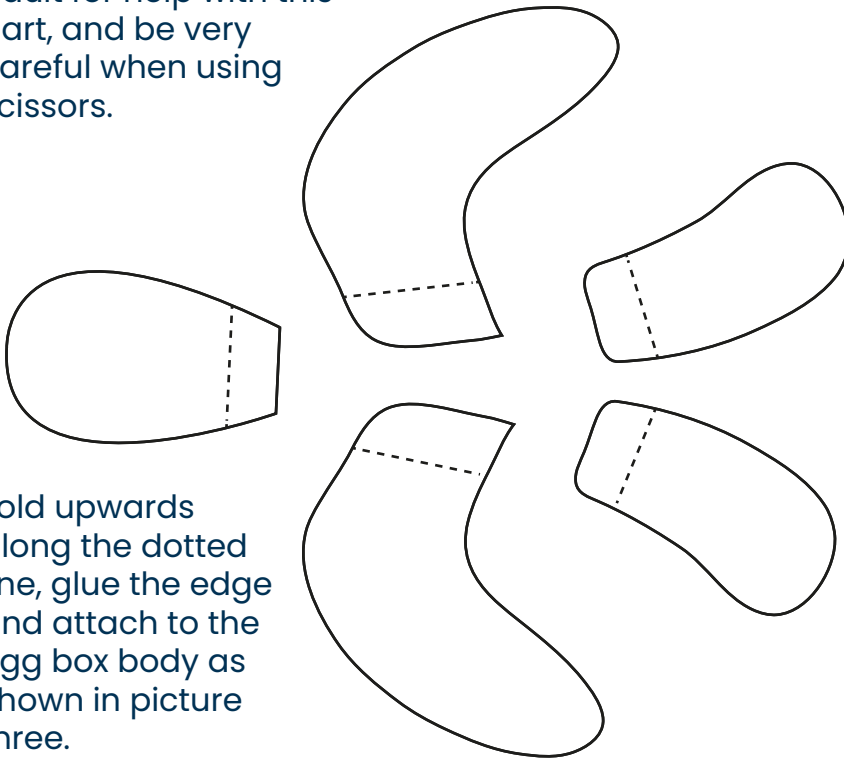
Swim, swim...

This water looks clearer. It's a protected area! Look at the clean sea. There's a jellyfish, Turtley! A real one. Enjoy a tasty dinner. You've earned it.



MAKE YOUR OWN TURTLE HATCHLING

Carefully cut out this template, please ask an adult for help with this part, and be very careful when using scissors.



Fold upwards along the dotted line, glue the edge and attach to the egg box body as shown in picture three.

YOU WILL NEED...

- ✓ Empty egg box
- ✓ Colouring pens
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Glue
- ✓ Your imagination!



Approx
25 mins



Child
Friendly



Difficulty
Medium



Supervision
Required

INSTRUCTIONS



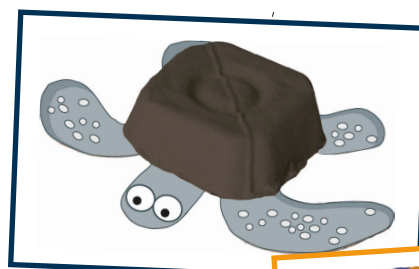
1. Cut the top off of one egg compartment to make your shell



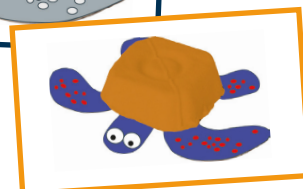
2. Use the template above and cut out two long front flippers, two short back flippers and a head



3. Glue the head and flippers on to the shell to complete your hatchling



4. Get creative and decorate your hatchling however you like. You could use paint, pens or crayons - it's up to you!



Find more content for you and your family
visit our website [mcsuk.org](https://www.mcsuk.org)

Carefully cut out the speech bubbles. Write a message from your turtle hatchling to humans and stick it or place it next to your hatchling. What would they want to say?

