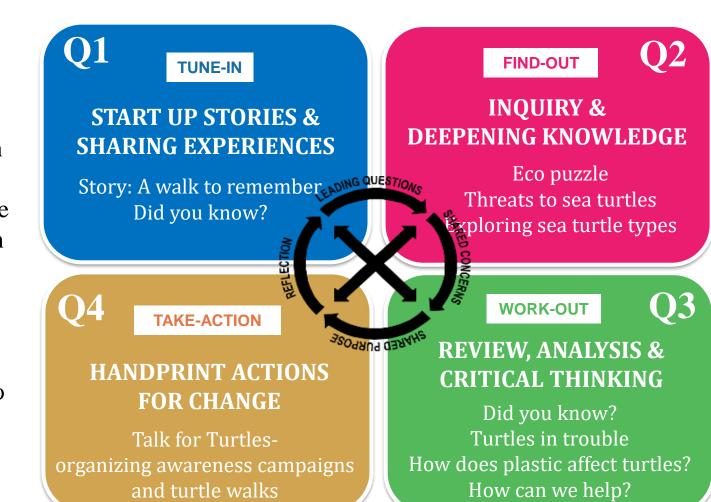


Sea Turtles

Travelling around the world for over 100 million years, as ancient and as iconic as they are, sea turtles play a vital role in maintaining the balance of marine ecosystem. However, increased human activities like poaching and over-exploitation have endangered sea turtles. If an iconic fauna like sea turtle goes extinct, then is there hope for its lesser known yet indefinably significant counterparts? This exemplar gives a glimpse into how sea turtles have become the mascot for conservation movements for years and how conservation movements can be extended into habitat protection for the entire ecosystem.



Exemplar on Sea Turtles



The Turtle exemplar begins with a real-life story of a group of sea turtle conservationists who in their journey of relocating turtle eggs to safer places, witness harsh realities of sea turtles' life on land and sea. The story is accompanied with activities like poster making to help deepen their knowledge on types of turtles found in their country and across the world. There is also an eco-puzzle that students need to solve to understand the role of turtles in maintaining balance in sea and interdependence of turtles and marine ecosystem. Following this, is a set of research work to help students critically think and analyse introduced to different types of plastics and its effect on marine ecosystem. This analysis can be further enriched with an ethical discussion with students around questions like:

- Do you think conservation efforts like beach clean-up or turtle walks alone will put an end to marine pollution crisis?
- What are the actual underlying causes that leads to marine pollution and endangering sea turtles? And what can we do about it?

Through awareness campaigns, beach clean-ups, skits/poetry, students are encouraged to take Handprint actions to reduce litter in their immediate environment viz school, home and local community, sensitise people about importance of sea turtle conservation and protection of marine ecosystem.