TURTLES IN SCHOOLS

TERM 2 WORKBOOK

TURTLES IN SCHOOLS

1 Million Turtles
COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM
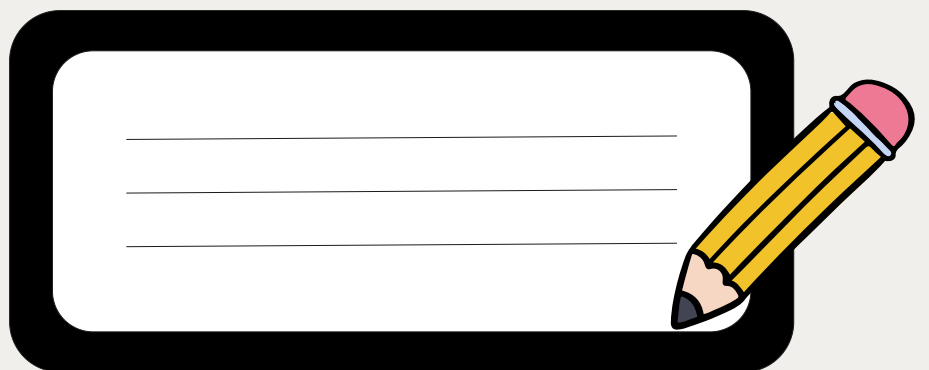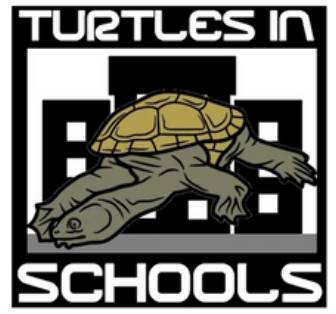
TURTLES IN SCHOOLS

Produced by the
1 Million Turtles Community
Conservation Program
and funded by
The Foundation for National
Parks and Wildlife.

In the pages that follow, you will find a comprehensive set of lesson plans. Our initiative is not just about imparting knowledge but fostering a deep connection between students and their natural environment and instilling a sense of responsibility and awareness of freshwater turtles and their conservation.

As we embark on this educational venture, we extend our gratitude to educators, students, and all those who champion the cause of conservation. The Turtles in Schools Program is not just a curriculum; it is a movement to inspire the next generation of environmental custodians.

Thank you,

1 Million Turtles Community Conservation Program

LESSON 4

TERM TWO

INTRODUCTION TO TURTLESAT

- Learning Intentions
- Background
- Activities
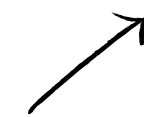- Curriculum Mapping

Photo credit: Dr Donald McKnight

Learning Intentions

(1) Explain how TurtleSAT can be used by the public to collect data;

(2) Understand the role of technology in scientific data collection and the importance of digital tools and databases.

**Explain**

Background Information TurtleSAT

TurtleSAT is a citizen science mapping tool produced by the 1 Million Turtles Community Conservation Program. TurtleSAT allows communities to map the location of freshwater turtles in waterways and wetlands across the country.

The TurtleSAT app collects important information relating to the distribution and abundance of freshwater turtles. Participants submit sightings of turtles and their nests, with the app recording data such as the geographic location, species of turtle, individuals demographic, turtle behaviour (i.e. nesting, basking, crossing the road) and turtle and nest fate (i.e. alive or dead).

The data collected through TurtleSAT contributes to a broader understanding of freshwater turtle ecology and population health. It aids researchers, conservationists, and policymakers in making informed decisions to protect and manage freshwater turtle populations and habitats.

TurtleSAT emphasises public engagement and education, encouraging people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the project. It promotes awareness about the importance of freshwater turtle conservation and the role that individuals can play in contributing to scientific knowledge.
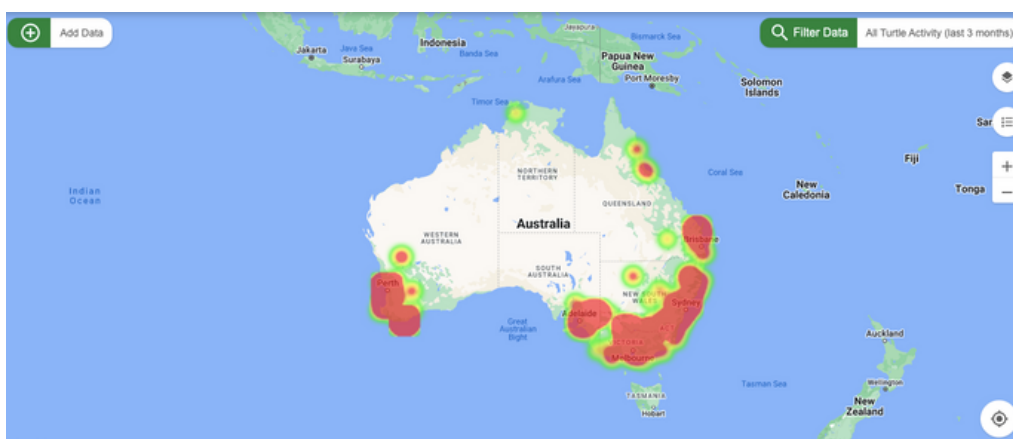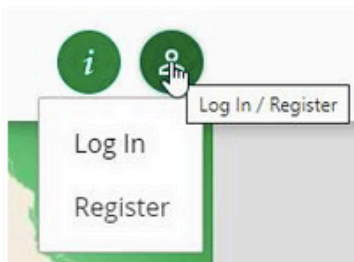
Classroom Activity

ACTIVITY

(1) Visit the TurtleSAT website and explore the information presented.

Link to website: https://www.turtlesat.org.au/turtlesat/ [Copy and paste into browser]

(2) Learn about the types of data TurtleSAT collects and how to enter it.

Record your observations

Step 1 Register your details

Register your details to join the TurtleSAT project, or simply record information with a valid email address. You do not need to register but it will make it easier for you to view your own data, and enable the TurtleSAT team to keep you informed about how your data is helping to protect turtles in your local area.

Step 2 Map your observations

Record wherever you see freshwater turtles, their nests or evidence of predation on turtles by pests like introduced Foxes. To enter data, zoom to your current location and place a marker on the map, then insert the details of your observation in the form provided. Mobile phone users can also enter data while in the field.

Step 3 Submit your record
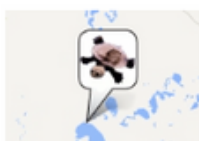
Submit your record and view the details in the All Sightings or My Data tabs. View other observations in your local area entered by other community members. You can also upload your photos to the Photo Gallery and they will display on the TurtleSAT website.

TurtleSAT

Imagine you are a citizen scientist using TurtleSAT to record turtle sightings in your local area. Provide two hypothetical scenarios where you might encounter a turtle and describe what data you would record for each scenario using TurtleSAT.