

# TURTLES IN SCHOOLS

# TERM 4 WORKBOOK



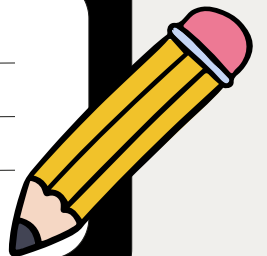
Photo credit: TurtleSAT User



# 1 Million Turtles

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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# 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**

# 22 LESSONS

TERM FOUR

## COLLABORATION WITH FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

- Learning Intentions
- Background
- Activities
- Curriculum Mapping



# Learning Intentions

(1) Recognise the importance of collaboration with First Nations People when developing and implementing conservation strategies for freshwater turtle species.



## Collaboration

## Background Information:

Collaboration with First Nations People is crucial for the conservation of native species, including freshwater turtles, due to the profound connection Indigenous communities often have with the land, its biodiversity, and their traditional ecological knowledge.

### **Cultural Knowledge and Traditional Practices:**

Indigenous communities often possess rich and unique knowledge about local ecosystems, including the behaviour, habitats, and significance of native species. This traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) is invaluable for understanding the ecological intricacies of a region.

### **Sustainable Resource Management:**

First Nations People have historically practiced sustainable resource management, including the conservation of wildlife. Their traditional land management practices, such as controlled burning and selective harvesting, contribute to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems, benefiting native species.

### **Stewardship Values:**

Indigenous cultures often emphasise a deep sense of stewardship and responsibility toward the land and its inhabitants. Collaboration with First Nations People brings a holistic perspective that goes beyond scientific data and considers the spiritual and cultural dimensions of conservation.

### **Conserving Biodiversity:**

The conservation of native species is interconnected with the broader goal of preserving biodiversity. Indigenous communities play a critical role in maintaining the balance of ecosystems, contributing to the overall health and resilience of the environment.

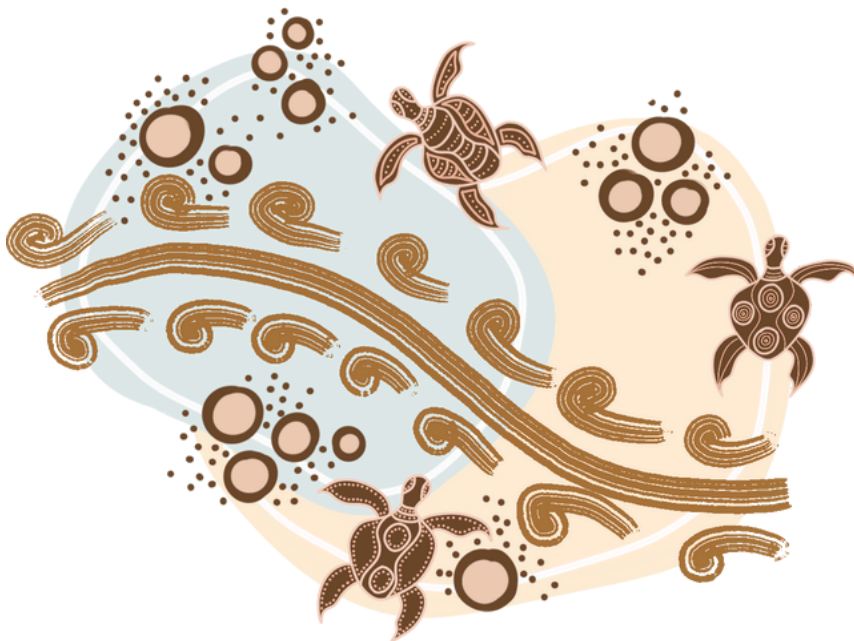


### **Preserving Cultural Heritage:**

Many Indigenous cultures have stories, traditions, and ceremonies linked to native species, including freshwater turtles. Collaborating with First Nations People ensures that these cultural connections are acknowledged and respected, contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage.

### **Effective Conservation Strategies:**

Incorporating traditional knowledge into conservation strategies enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of initiatives. Indigenous communities can provide insights into the specific needs and threats faced by native species, helping to tailor conservation plans to the local context. Providing equitable access to decision-making processes regarding conservation initiatives is an essential component of collaboration.



# Classroom Activities

## ACTIVITY 1

(1A) In small groups brainstorm ideas for a collaborative approach to researching and conserving freshwater turtles, with a focus on your local wetland. Write your ideas on chart paper using markers. Be creative in your approach and incorporate both Indigenous and scientific perspectives.

(1B) Design a visual representation of your collaborative approach. This could be in the form of a poster, diagram, or concept map. Consider the roles of both scientists and First Nations People in your approach.

(1C) Present your designs to the class, explaining the roles of scientists and First Nations People in the conservation of freshwater turtles.

