



Term 4, Lesson 5

Turtle Patrols: Nesting Season

Learning Objectives:

1. Facilitate your own “Turtle Patrol” at your local wetland;
2. Implement nest protection over turtle nests;
3. Collect scientific data around turtle nesting for input into TurtleSAT;
4. Advocate for the health for your local wetland and conservation for freshwater turtles.



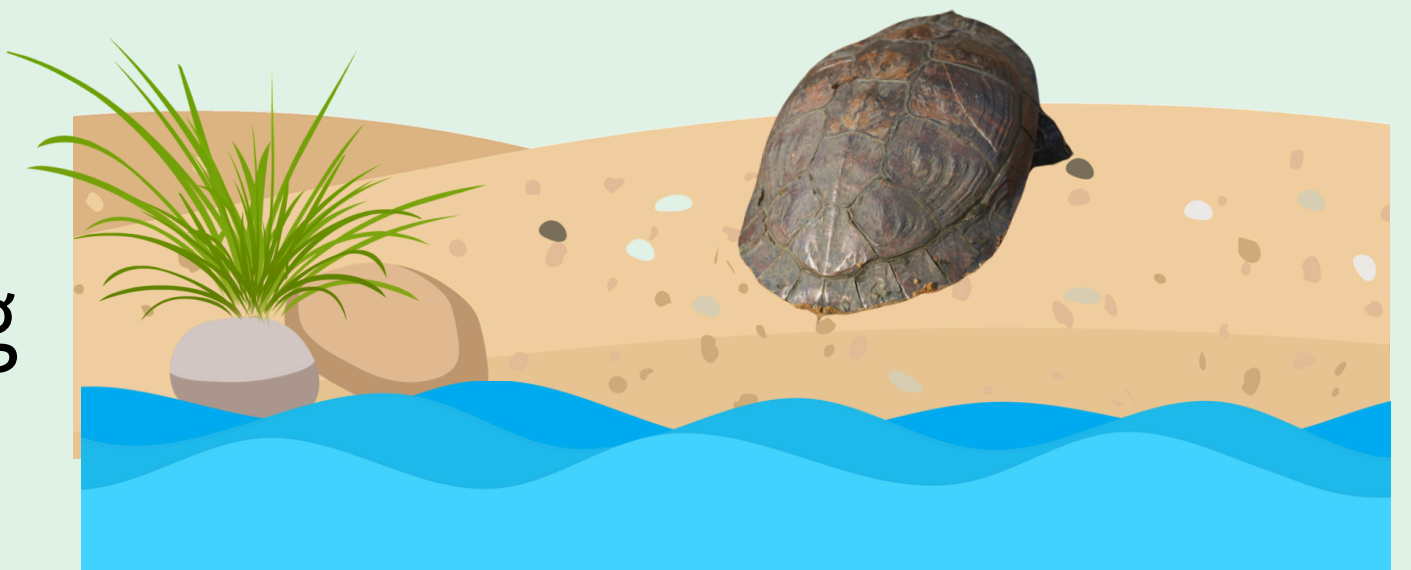
Photo credit: Dr. James Van Dyke

Turtle Patrols - Nesting Season

During turtle nesting season, walk around your local wetland quietly looking for females nesting. It is best to commence your “Turtle Patrol” during or after rainstorms and heavy rain showers.

How to know if a turtle is nesting -

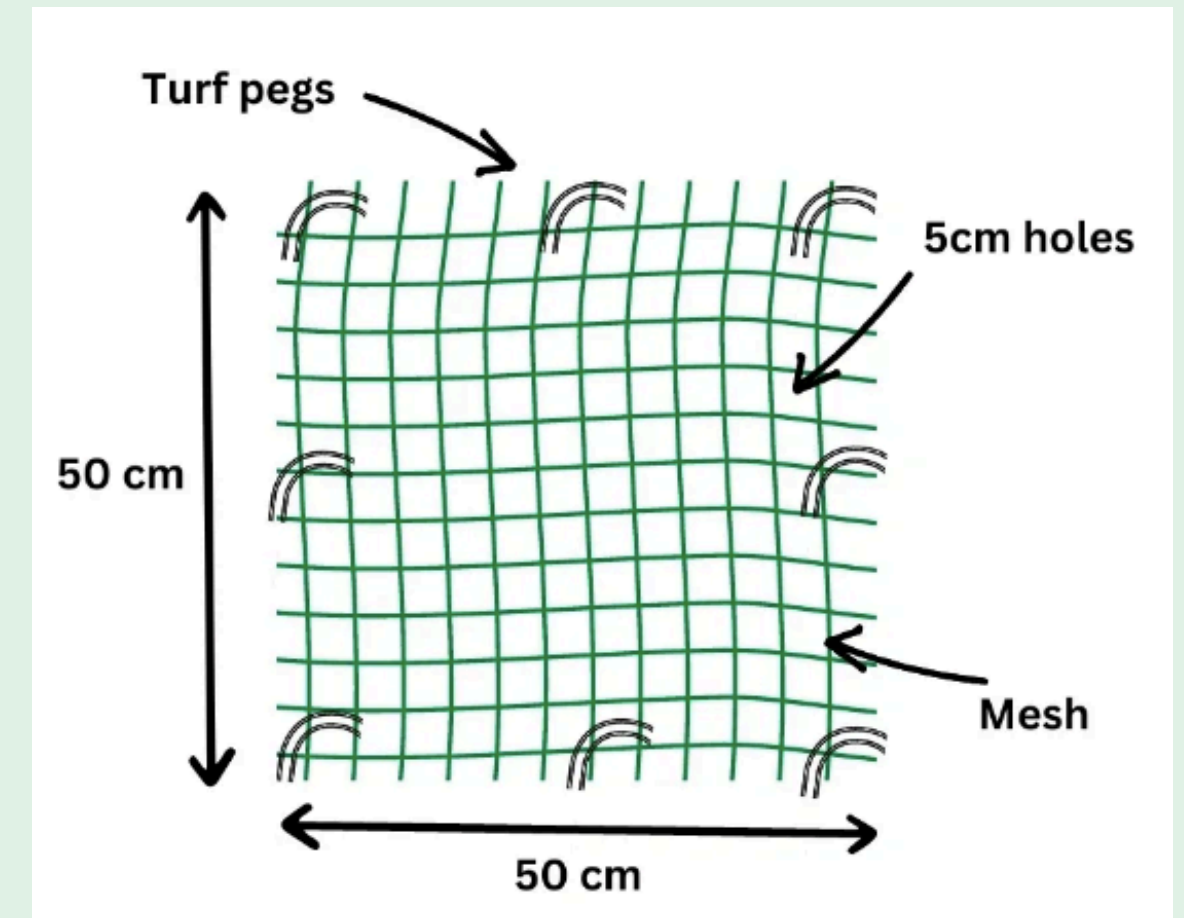
A nesting turtle will have its rear pointed into the dirt and its front half will be noticeably propped up. Once you have spotted a nesting turtle it is important you maintain a distance of ~20 metres. The nesting process can take between 2 to 3 hours.



Turtle Patrols - Nesting Season

Protecting turtle nests -

1. Wait until the female turtle has completely left the nesting site before heading towards the nest location.
2. Place the mesh over the nest, and peg it tightly to the ground using 6 to 8 turf pegs. Use a hammer to ensure the turf pegs are firmly secured to the ground. The pegs should be secured along the outer edges of the mesh.



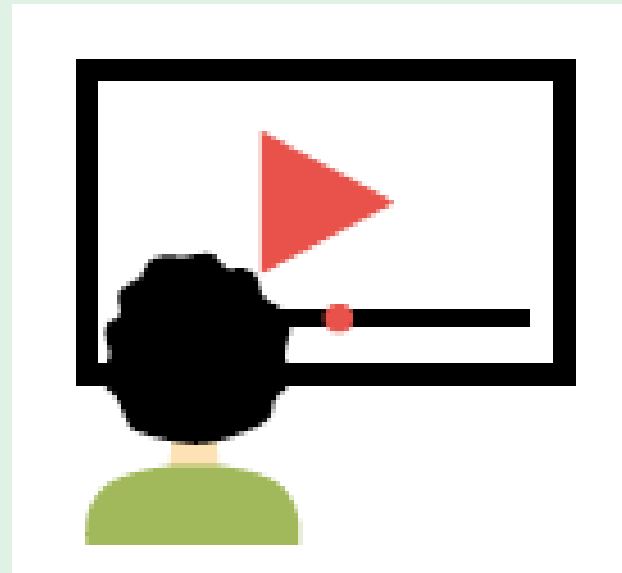
Record your sightings into TurtleSAT

DON'T FORGET!

Classroom Activities

Activity 1 - Video: How to implement turtle nest protection

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyExj3hHA-A>



Classroom Activities

Activity 2 -

- Before commencing nest protection, you must complete a risk assessment. The risk assessment helps to keep you and the turtles safe.
- You can access a risk assessment form from the 1 Million Turtles Community Conservation website.



Wetland Activities

Activity 3 -

- Participate in “Turtle Patrols” around your local wetland.
- Walk around your local wetland and locate turtles nesting.
- Record your sightings into TurtleSAT and implement nest protection.
- Involve your family and friends.

