

### World Turtle Day®

May 23 is World Turtle Day! It's a day created in 2000 by American Tortoise Rescue to celebrate turtles and learn how to protect them and their habitats. Mentoring Minds believes every day is a great day for students to learn more science AND develop critical thinking. Students will use the **Collaborate** critical thinking trait to research turtles and tortoises and how to keep them safe in their natural environments.

*Note: Preview literature and Internet websites for appropriate content to match your district guidelines.*

### Getting Started



**Critical Thinking Trait Focus—Collaborate:** *I work with others to achieve better outcomes.* Review the **Collaborate** critical thinking trait with students and explain they will be using this trait to learn more about turtles and tortoises.

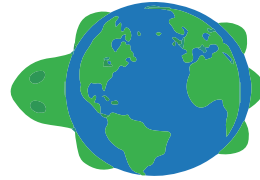
**Learning Standards Focus—**analyze data and interpret patterns; identify relationships, systems, and cycles within environments, analyze the impact of organisms on ecosystems; identify physical characteristics and behaviors of organisms which aid in survival; develop inquiry and research processes

**Vocabulary—**ecosystem, organism, habitat, rescue, advocate, inherit

### Instruction

#### Activity Directions:

1. Introduce students to the topic using a short title or excerpt to read aloud. (See Literature Suggestions.)
2. Share with students that May 23 is World Turtle Day, created to learn about and celebrate the uniqueness of turtles and tortoises. Invite discussions to assess students' prior knowledge and use the time to introduce vocabulary.
3. Prompt students with thought-provoking questions to facilitate the development of the **Collaborate** critical thinking trait. Examples include:
  - a. "What is the underlying message?"
  - b. "What ideas validate \_\_\_\_?"
  - c. "What can you infer about \_\_\_\_?"
4. Assign each student a research focus question. Students can use sources listed or other sources to gather information.
  - How do turtles and tortoises live and survive in their ecosystem by interacting with the living and nonliving components?
  - What facts about turtles and tortoises would be most helpful to advocate for their safety and survival?
  - What positive or negative impact do turtles and tortoises have on ecosystems?
  - What positive or negative impact do humans have on the environments of turtles and tortoises?
  - What physical characteristics and behaviors do turtles and tortoises possess to help them survive within their environments?



5. When all resources have been exhausted and data has been gathered, group students by focus question. Guide students as they work in teams to analyze, critique and combine their data to select the most impactful research to answer their question. Encourage students to value individual contributions as they work together to achieve a focused outcome.
6. Move students into jigsaw groups where all groups contain an expert to represent each focus question. Invite each member of the group in turn to share their researched findings.

### Reflect

After students have **Collaborated**, facilitate a discussion about their thinking and learning. Guide students as they focus on how the **Collaborate** critical thinking trait helped them **work through the activity**. Emphasize the importance of valuing the ideas of all collaborators.

### Literature Suggestions

**Legends and Fables about Turtles:** *The Tortoise and the Jackrabbit* by Susan Lowell, *How Turtle's Back Was Cracked: A Traditional Cherokee Tale* by Gayle Ross, *The Fisherman and the Turtle* by Eric A. Kimmel

**Books about Keeping Turtles Safe:** *A Place for Turtles* by Melissa Stewart, *Into the Sea* by Brenda Z. Guiberson, *Follow the Moon Home* by Philippe Cousteau, *Turtle, Turtle, Watch Out!* by April Pulley Sayre

### Media

Symbaloo Turtle Research Webmix: <https://www.symbaloo.com/shared/AAAAAQ8k8ioAA41-4sMCVA==>