

# FEASTIN' TURTLES!

The aim of this game is to learn about the impact of plastic in the ocean on marine life.

Ocean Literacy principles:

- 5: the ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems
- 6: the ocean and humans are inextricably connected



Topic: Ingestion of plastic by marine life

Age: K - Gr. 4

Materials:

- Plastic Easter eggs
- Slips of paper with an image of either food (jellyfish, seaweed, shrimp, etc) or waste (plastic bags, plastic cutlery, straws, etc.) to put inside the eggs
- Field/gym/open space

Length: 15-30 mins

Learning objectives/goals: to learn about the impact of plastic on marine animals

Background knowledge:

- A lot of plastic ends up in the ocean
- Many marine animals will ingest plastic. For example, sea turtles will eat plastic bags because they mistake them for jellyfish
- Ingesting plastic is harmful to the animal

Activity:

*Set up:*

Place one or two slips of paper in each easter egg. Scatter the eggs in an open area.

*Before the game:*

Brainstorm human made objects that can end up in the oceans

*During the game:*

In an open space, scatter the easter eggs ("food"). Each player is a sea turtle. They run around and collect their "food". Once all the "food" is collected, they can open their "food". In their "food", there will be either food, plastic, or both. If someone has 4 or more plastics, they are out of the game. The "food" can be redistributed and collected with different rounds such as the following:

- Round 1: all food
- Round 2: some plastic, some food
- Round 3 mostly plastic

- Round 4: add a predator/threat (a "net monster") who can tag people out

*After the game:*

Ask the following questions:

- Which round was the easiest/hardest and why?
- Could anyone tell the contents of the eggs only by looking from the outside?  
→ turtles have a difficult time identifying plastic bags from jellyfish
- Brainstorm ways to keep plastic out of the oceans  
→ Examples: Using a reusable water bottle and containers, participating in a beach clean up, the three R's, educating others about protecting the ocean

Additional questions:

- What happens to an animal when it eats plastic?  
→ The plastic can cause damage to its digestive system. It can also take up room in its stomach, and so they would not be able to eat as much food.
- What would happen if a species/animal goes extinct?

Walk away message:

Plastic waste in the ocean affects not only sea turtles, but all marine life. In order to protect our oceans we need to keep it free of trash. There are many things each person can do to help keep the oceans clean, such as by using containers instead of ziplock bags, bringing a reusable bag when buying groceries, and recycling what we can.

\* The images of the food and waste can be laminated so they can be reused.

\*\* This game can also be played using bean bags of different colours. Each colour can represent either food or waste. Make sure to switch up the colour assignments each round so the players won't know the difference between the food and plastic.