

Lesson Plan

Letter Writing Campaign

Book: *Saving Green Sea Turtles*

Series: Saving Animals

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students practice writing persuasive letters and using evidence to support their claims.

Supplies

- *Saving Green Sea Turtles* book
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read through the *Saving Green Sea Turtles* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Pass out paper and pencils.

Activity

According to *Saving Green Sea Turtles*, one way people can help protect green sea turtles is to use less plastic. Students will write five-paragraph persuasive letters to convince people to use less plastic. A convincing argument might include evidence of how plastic in the oceans affects green sea turtles. It might also address why green sea turtles need saving, and why they should be saved in the first place.

Each student should first choose a person to address his or her letter to. Then, students should determine how best to organize their letters, including what information should go in each of the five paragraphs. Lastly, students should write their letters, being sure to include the following:

- An opening paragraph that greets the letter's recipient and introduces the topic of saving green sea turtles
- Three body paragraphs that build the argument for why green sea turtles need to be saved and how reducing plastic use can help
- A closing paragraph that includes asking the recipient to reduce his or her use of plastic

Evaluation

Collect the letters at the end of the class period. Award students up to 18 points:

- 3 points for an engaging opening paragraph that clearly introduces the purpose of the letter
- 3 points each for body paragraphs that provide well-organized evidence for the letter's chief argument
- 3 points for a compelling closing paragraph
- 3 points for writing that is relatively free of spelling and grammatical errors

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 6 (W 6.1).