

## Plastic Pollution Live Lesson

### Leatherback sorting game – notes to educators

The following game is a simple way for children to understand the impacts of plastic pollution on wildlife, whilst also learning how to recycle.

#### Aims of the game:

Identify which objects in a turtle's environment are food and which are possibly harmful (jellyfish versus plastic bags).

Step only on the food items (jellyfish) to reach recycling bins.

Once at the recycling bins, deposit their waste item into the correct bin.

#### Description of game:

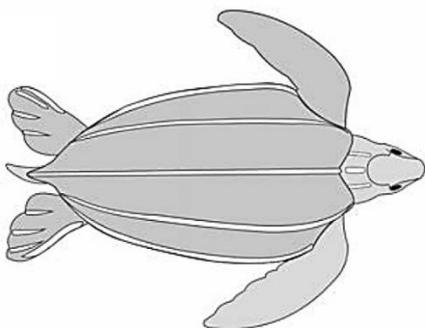
##### Materials you will need for the game:

- Chalk
- Outside space big enough to draw a Leatherback Turtle (140-160cm long) plus jellyfish and plastic bag stepping stones
- Recycling bins / empty containers with pictures of recycling materials on them (for example, paper, plastic, food, non-recyclable/general waste)
- Selection of waste items (at least one per child). This could be waste pieces of paper / plastic / fruit skins / other waste or representations of waste, such as fabric or plastic food toys. You could even have a classroom clean up and find any items that you would be throwing away anyway.

##### Before you start the game:

Find an outdoor space with enough room to draw a Leatherback Turtle. Using chalk, draw the outline of a Leatherback Turtle on the ground in your outdoor space.

Your drawing should be 140-160 cm in length. An image of a Leatherback Turtle is provided below to help you:



Source: Frey, E., Mulder, E. W., Stinnesbeck, W., Rivera-Sylva, H. E., Padilla-Gutiérrez, J. M., & González-González, A. H. (2017). A new polycotylid plesiosaur with extensive soft tissue preservation from the early Late Cretaceous of northeast Mexico. *Boletín de la Sociedad Geológica Mexicana*, 69(1), 87-134.

In front of the Leatherback Turtle draw images of jellyfish and plastic bags. You can write the name Stanley on the plastic bags. You should have approximately the same number of jellyfish as plastic bags. You can get pupils involved in creating the chalk drawings.

Position the recycling bins / containers on the far side of the jellyfish / plastic bag drawings.

#### Game:

- Start children off by asking them to choose one of the waste items.
- One at a time, ask them to stand on your Leatherback Turtle.
- They then need to get to the correct recycling bin / container by only standing on things that will not harm your turtle (jellyfish).
- If they stand on a plastic bag, they need to start again.
- Once they have reached the correct recycling bin / container, they need to deposit their waste item into it.
- If they choose the wrong recycling bin / container, they need to start again.
- Continue until all the children have had a chance to play the game.
- Repeat the game as many times as you want.
- You can encourage children to help each other find a 'safe' path to get to the correct recycling bin / container.

#### Follow up to the game:

Think about how you can incorporate waste sorting into your daily routine. Maybe you could make sure children have access to recycling bins and make sure they put their waste in the correct one. You could also have a classroom tidy up each day / week and encourage children to identify what can be reused and then sort the waste items into the correct recycling bin.

#### Extensions:

- *See how many children can fit inside your Leatherback Turtle drawing to demonstrate how big these amazing animals are.*
- *You could add a message to your chalk drawings to ask adults to reduce plastic pollution and look after our seas. Take a picture of the message, put it up in your establishment and share it with your local community.*