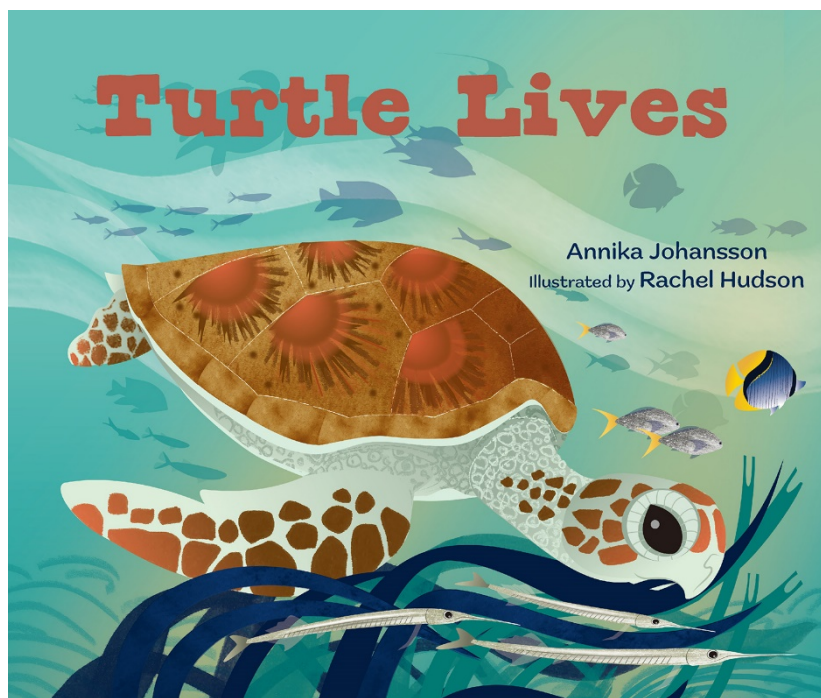


Turtle Lives

Teaching Notes

Author: Annika Johansson

Illustrator: Rachel Hudson



Synopsis:

Turtle Lives is a poignant story about the life of a sea turtle, from playful beginnings to nesting on sandy shores. Through captivating illustrations and lyrical text, this story gently introduces the life cycle of a sea turtle and how global warming will affect their future. With fascinating facts and tips on how we can help protect our planet and its fragile sea life, this book encourages readers to take small steps to make a big impact. Turtle Lives aims at encouraging awareness of the fragility of our planet, the Earth's climate, and empowers children to make meaningful change.

In the classroom:

Before Reading

- Introduce the cover of the book.
 - What do you think the story will be about?
- Have you ever seen a sea turtle?
 - Where do you think they live?
- What do you know about animals growing and changing?
 - Do any animals change in a special way?
- What does climate change mean?
 - Have you heard about this topic before?

During Reading

Discussion questions

- What could the title, “Turtle Lives”, mean?
 - How does the story show different parts of Turtle’s life?
- Why are the words “warm, warmer, hot” important to the story?
- How does Turtle’s world change as the story moves forward?
- When Turtle is lonely, how does that make you feel?
 - What do you think is happening?
- What do you think happens at the end of the story?
 - Why does the book ask the question, “Turtle is gone?”

After Reading

Reflection and Analysis

- What is something new you have learnt about sea turtles?
- How does the climate affect sea turtles?
 - Why do you think this is?
- What do humans do that could cause global warming?
- What are some ways in which we could help slow global warming?
- How does the story make you feel?
 - What is the message it is trying to share?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Turtle Moves – Encourage children to act out different ways in which a turtle moves. Children can flap, float, and flip. How does a turtle move on land compared to in the ocean? What noise might a turtle make?

Turtle Makes – Encourage children to make a turtle collage. Use different coloured paper to create some imaginative shells.

Science:

Warm and Cold Experiment - Fill two containers with sand. Leave one in the sun, and the other in the shade. Use a thermometer to measure the temperatures. Discuss with children the differences and why this may be. How will this affect turtle hatchlings?

Sea Turtle Life Cycle – Encourage children to participate in a life cycle display. Ask children to draw or create the different stages of development, i.e. eggs, hatchlings, juvenile, adult.

Climate Change – Explore the causes and effects. What other animals are affected by climate change? Create a display related to this issue. How can humans help to protect our environment?

About the Author:

Annika Johansson is an Australian author and freelance writer living in the rainforests on Bundjalung Country on the Northern Rivers of NSW. She is a self-confessed people watcher and believes there is no better secret power than our own imaginations. She has weekly conversations with kookaburras, pythons, wallabies, green tree frogs, turtles, and echidnas, hoping they will one day come inside and join her for afternoon tea.

About the Illustrator:

Rachel Hudson creates artwork that brings people closer to nature. She is the author and illustrator of *100 Endangered Species* (Button Books, 2021) and illustrator of *How to Know a Crow* (Greystone Kids, 2024). Rachel lives in Hampshire, England. Her research for *Turtle Lives* included visiting Friday the green turtle in the National Marine Aquarium.