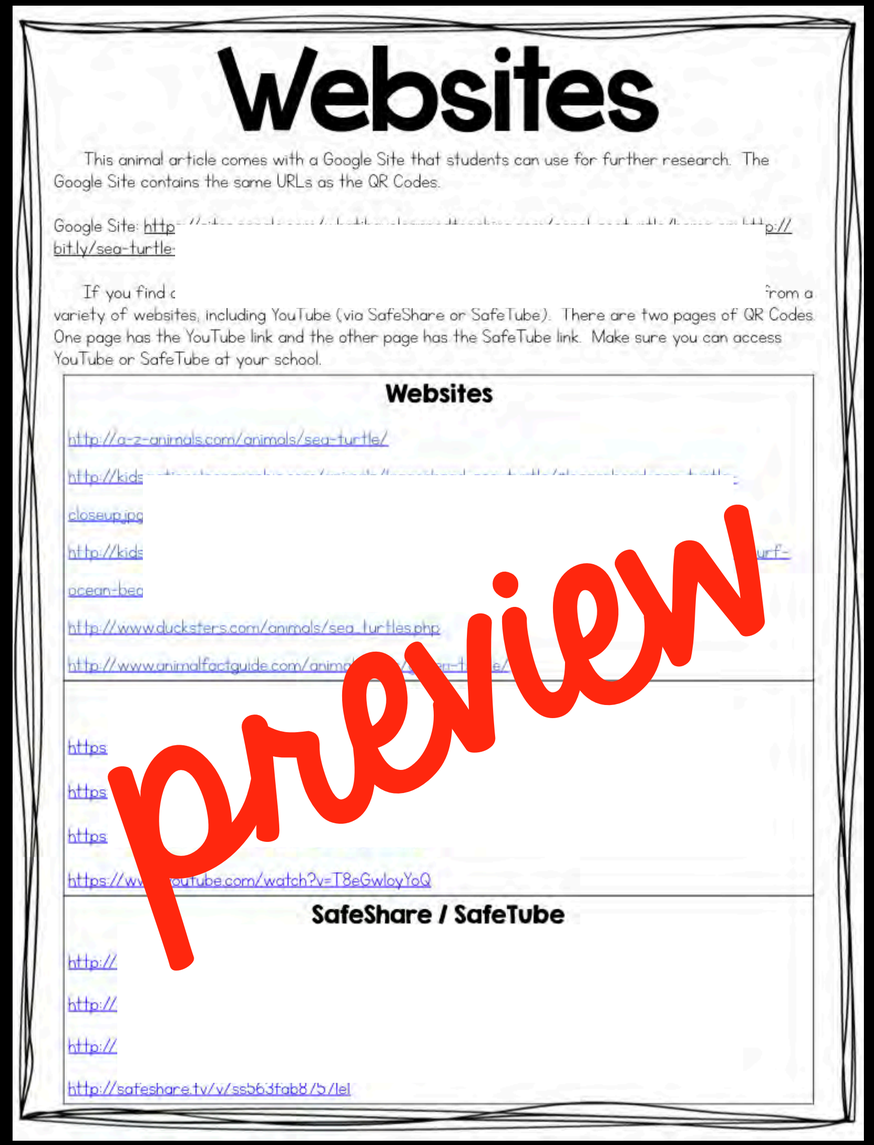
Sea Turtle INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE



Vocabulary



Includes link to a Google Site



Internet Resources

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Sea Turtle INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE

Sea Turtle

Sea turtles are large reptiles that live in warm oceans. They usually live near tropical coral reefs. There are seven types, or species, of sea turtles.

Appearance

Most sea turtles have a hard shell called a carapace. The leatherback turtle has bony plates beneath its leathery skin instead. Unlike other turtles, sea turtles cannot pull their legs or heads into their carapace.

The leatherback is the largest sea turtle. It can be nine feet long, five feet wide, and weigh up to 1,500 pounds. Most other species are between 2 to 4 feet long. The smallest sea turtle weighs only 80 to 100 pounds. Males and females are the same sizes. Sea turtles can be dull yellow, green, brown, or black, depending on the species.

Diet and Feeding

Some sea turtles are herbivores and eat only plants, such as seagrass and algae. Other sea turtles are carnivores and eat meat, such as jellyfish, shrimp, and fish. Other turtles are omnivores and eat both plants and meat. Adult green sea turtles are herbivores. Leatherback sea turtles only eat jellyfish and other soft-bodied animals.

When hunting for food, sea turtles can stay underwater for up to seven hours. However, most sea turtles only stay underwater for two hours.

Offspring

Sea turtles migrate from their feeding areas to breeding areas to find mates. Some species can travel up to 3,700 miles. When female sea turtles are ready to lay their eggs, they swim onto a beach at night. They dig a hole 20 inches deep and lay between 50 and 350 eggs. Then they refill the hole with sand and hide it with grasses. When finished, the female returns to the ocean and leaves the eggs.

All the eggs in one nest hatch after 50-60 days, and at the same time. After they hatch, baby sea turtles dig out of the sand to reach the surface. This can take them a week. Once they reach the top, they crawl to the ocean. They have to race to avoid predators such as birds and crabs. The sun can also dry them out. Only about one in 1,000 baby turtles survives to adulthood.

Threats & Predators

Six of the seven species of sea turtles are considered endangered. People, pollution, and climate change are the biggest threats. People hunt sea turtles, catch them in fishing nets, or keep them as pets. Ocean trash such as plastic bottles or rings is choking many sea turtles. Climate change is making many beaches warmer. The warmer sand causes more female sea turtles to be born. With fewer male sea turtles, populations are shrinking.



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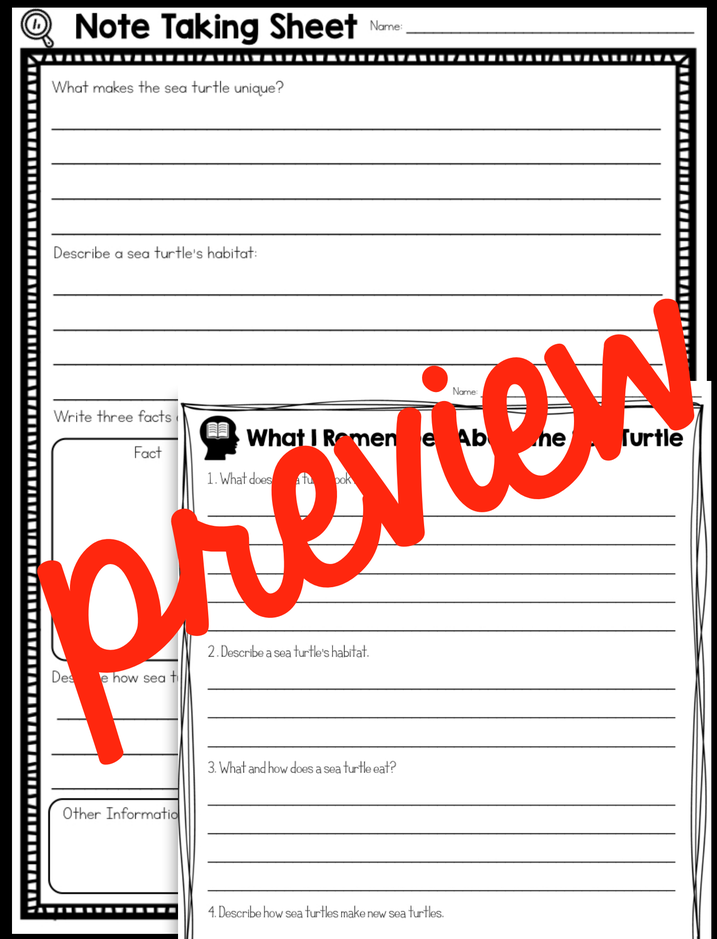


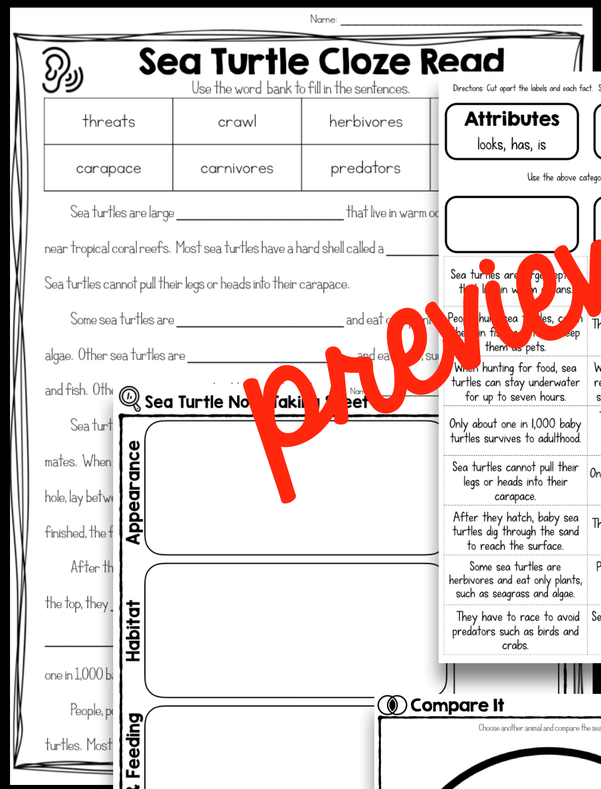


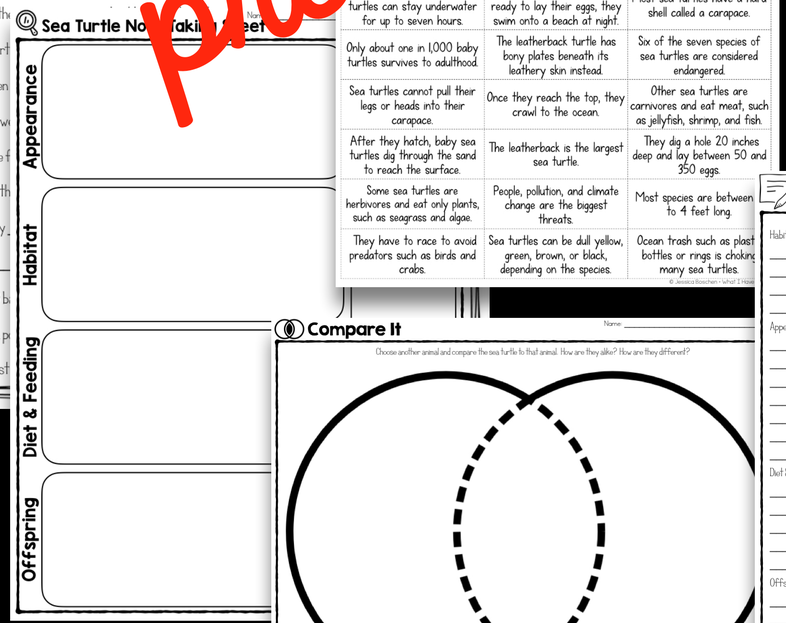
Consistent format for all animal articles

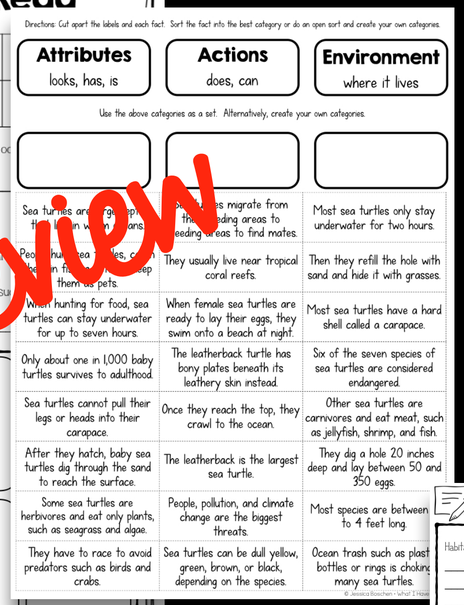
Text in Two Formats

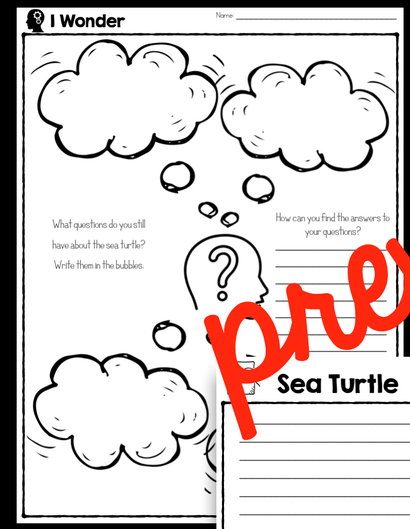
Sea Turtle INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE

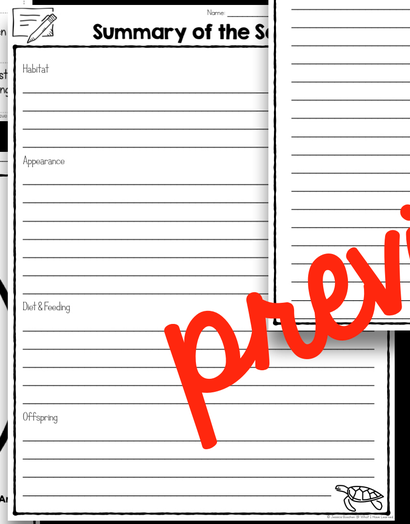




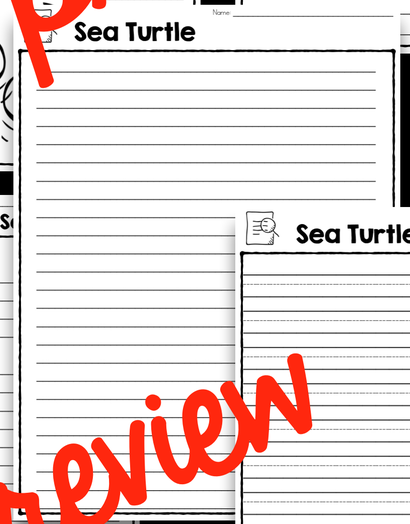


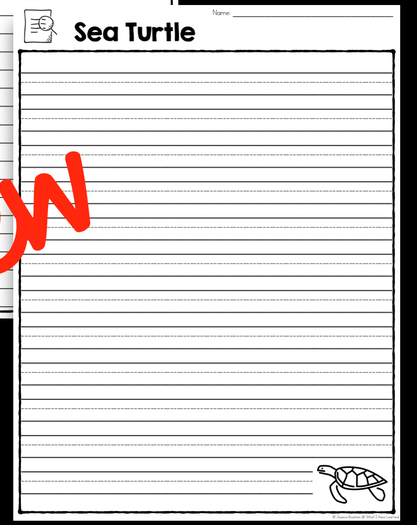












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Comprehension & Report Resources

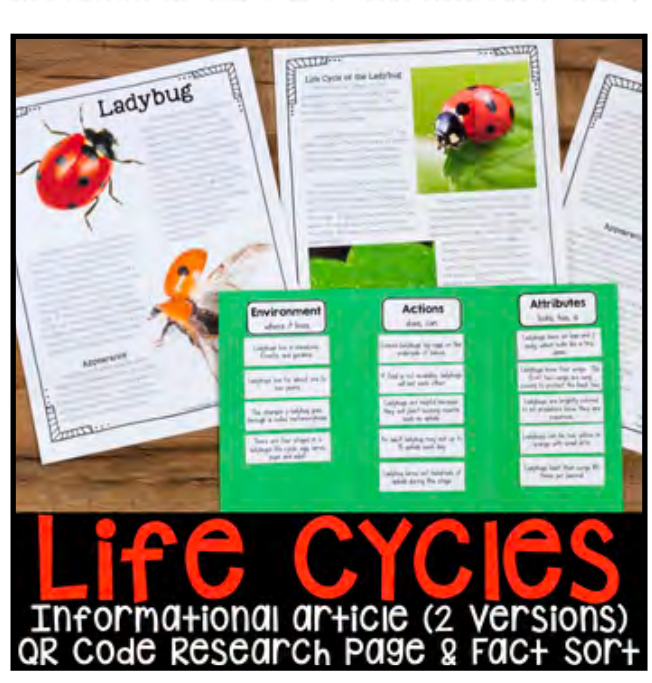
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More Animal Articles

Each animal is available individually and as part of a habitat set.







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Teacher Notes

The following article is written at a second and third grade reading level. It follows a similar format to other Animal Articles and can be used for animal reports, informational reading, or text analysis. The sentence length, structure, and vocabulary have been controlled to make the text easier for young readers to understand.

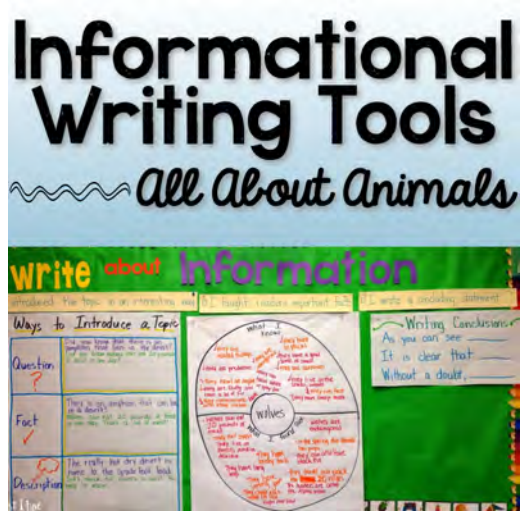
The article comes in two formats: One full-page black and white article and one two-page article with colorful pictures. The articles have the same text. The only difference is the pictures.

The QR codes are for websites and videos that give additional information about the animal. If you find any links that do not work, please email me and I will fix it promptly. Videos are from a variety of websites, including YouTube (via SafeTube). There are two pages of QR Codes. One page has the YouTube links and the other page has the SafeTube links. Make sure you can access YouTube or SafeTube at your school.

The fact sort sheets contain facts taken directly from the text. I use them to help students organize information from the text when writing about the animals. Either use the provided categories or have students do an open sort and create their own categories.

I often use these articles during our informational writing unit. You can find more about this unit in this blog post.







sea turtle

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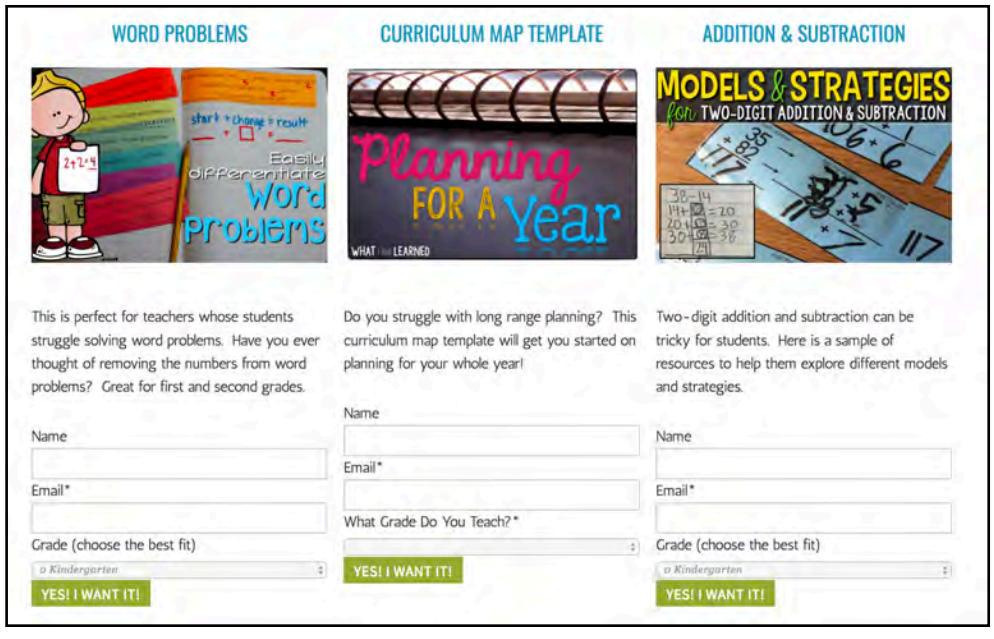
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