

# Unit

# 1

# Sea Turtles



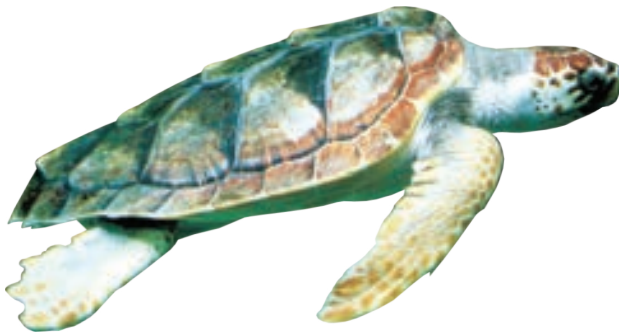
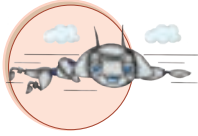


Prose

1

## Sea Turtles

WARM UP



The Loggerhead



The Olive Ridley



The Leatherback



The Hawksbill



The Green Sea Turtle

### Talk about ...

1. Have you seen turtles? Where do they live?
2. What do you know about turtles?
3. Why do you think the turtles in the picture have names such as Leatherback and Hawksbill?





## Section I

### READING



**Listen to the teacher reading this section.**

Most of us have seen a tortoise in a zoo or a reptile park. However, not many would have seen its **marine** relative, the sea turtle. This is not surprising, since these reptiles spend almost their entire life in the sea.

There are seven **species** of marine or sea turtles in the world. Of them, five are found in India's **coastal** waters: the Olive Ridley, the Hawksbill, the Green Sea Turtle, the Loggerhead and the Leatherback. Compared to most tortoises, sea turtles are huge. Even the smallest species, the Olive Ridley, weighs up to 35 kg when fully grown. The largest of them all, the Leatherback, grows to a length of 2.2m and each could weigh as much as 700 kg!



**The Olive Ridley**

Sea turtles live their life entirely in the oceans. But they still have a connection with land – they must come ashore to lay eggs. Today, four of the sea turtle species mentioned above have become extremely rare in India. The Olive Ridleys, however, are still commonly seen nesting on sandy beaches all along our coasts.

**Put a (✓) for the correct and a (✗) for the incorrect statements.**

1. Turtles are different from tortoises.
2. Turtles are sea animals.
3. There are seven kinds of sea turtles in the world.
4. Sea turtles are very small.
5. Turtles come ashore to lay eggs.
6. Sea turtles come to rest on land.
7. Olive Ridleys are the only sea turtles seen on Indian shores.

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### GLOSSARY

marine	- found in the sea
species	- group of animals with common features
coastal	- land by the edge of a sea









## Arribada

In most parts of the world, Olive Ridleys come ashore alone to lay their eggs. However, Odisha is one of the only three places in the world where a phenomenon known as 'mass nesting' or Arribada takes place. On certain nights during the nesting season, thousands of female turtles come ashore simultaneously to lay their eggs on particular beaches.



## Section II

Take turns and read this section aloud. Work in pairs and underline the new words. Find out their meanings from the dictionary.



**Olive Ridley laying eggs**

Between the months of January and March, female Olive Ridelies come ashore at night to lay their eggs. This is quite a problem for them, as a turtle's front **flippers** enable it to swim gracefully and effortlessly but are not very useful for moving on land. The turtle has to **haul** itself **laboriously** onto the beach. Then it chooses a spot well away from the high-tide line. Here, it scoops out a nest **cavity** 45 cm deep, into which it lays about 100 eggs. Each egg is in the shape and size of a table tennis ball. Once all the eggs are laid, the turtle fills in the cavity, then it **camouflages** the nest by tossing sand on it using its flippers. That done, it returns to the sea. The eggs are left to **incubate** under the warmth of the sun.

In many places around the world, local people follow the tracks of the turtle to its nest. They collect the eggs for eating. Jackals, domestic dogs and pigs too dig up and eat the eggs by following the scent left by the turtle. Those eggs that escape such people and **predators** hatch 45–60 days later. The hatchlings **slash** open the leathery eggshell with the help of a tiny 'egg-tooth'. This is like a razor blade at the tip of a hatchling's **snout**. When most of the eggs have hatched, the hatchlings push themselves upwards through the sand and **emerge** on the surface of the beach. From here they make a hurried dash to the sea.

### GLOSSARY

flippers	- broad, flat limbs used for swimming
predators	- animals that kill other animals for food
haul	- pull with force
slash	- cut
laboriously	- with great effort

snout	- pointed nose of an animal
cavity	- a hollow space
emerge	- come out
camouflage	- hide or disguise something
incubate	- hatch eggs using warmth

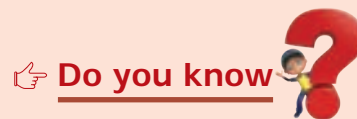






**Are these statements right? Discuss with your partner and (✓) them if they are correct. Correct them if they are wrong. Share your answers in class.**

1. Female Olive Ridelys come ashore at night to lay eggs. ☐
2. The eggs of an Olive Ridley are in the shape and size of a cricket ball. ☐
3. Ridelys come to lay their eggs in the month of January. ☐
4. The turtles use their flippers and make a hollow for their nests. ☐
5. The hatchlings use a tiny egg-tooth to come out of the eggs. ☐



There is an interesting aspect of sea turtle biology. The temperature inside the egg determines the sex of the embryo while it is growing. When the eggs develop at 27°C – 28°C only male hatchlings are produced. At 30°C only female hatchlings are produced. An equal mix of male and female hatchlings is produced only when the eggs incubate at precisely 29°C – 30°C.

## Section III

**Read this section in pairs.**

Many of these tiny hatchlings, which weigh less than 20 grams each, will not even reach the sea. They will fall prey to crabs or birds even before they reach the water. Most of those that do make it into the water will also be eaten by many predators in the sea within the first few days of their lives. In fact, scientists estimate that only one in every thousand hatchlings becomes an adult. It is perhaps to ensure that enough hatchlings **survive** to keep the species going that sea turtles lay so many eggs.

After many years of swimming in the open ocean, the female hatchlings that have become adults return to the same beach where they were born. They come there to lay their own eggs. How they manage to find the place after so many years in the sea is one of the many **mysteries** of these **fascinating** reptiles!



**Olive Ridley hatchling in the hand**

Sea turtles are among the many wonderful creatures we share this planet with.





They have survived natural dangers for millions of years. But, sadly, human activities during the last few **decades** have put them in grave danger. There are many factors that threaten their survival. People hunt them for their meat or collect their eggs. Sometimes they are accidentally trapped in the nests of motorboats. Problems like pollution, dumping of plastics into the ocean and construction activities on nesting beaches also hurt their survival. Only by systematically tackling these problems, and removing these threats, can we ensure that sea turtles will continue to exist in the years to come.

**Shekar Dattatri**

Shekar Dattatri writes popular articles on wildlife, conservation and film making. He has been interested in nature from childhood. He is an award-winning wildlife and conservation filmmaker. For more information on him visit [www.shekardattatri.com](http://www.shekardattatri.com)

**Fill in the table given below.**

S. No	Problems faced by the hatchlings	Effect	Solution
1.	Pollution	Survival of sea turtles becomes difficult.	Reduce the usage of plastics.
2.	Predators		
3.	Human Activities		

## GLOSSARY

survive - continue to live  
mysteries - facts that are difficult to understand  
fascinating - attracting greatly  
decade - a period of ten years



## READ AND UNDERSTAND

**A. Choose the correct answers. You may choose more than one answer if needed.**

- The \_\_\_\_\_ is a biological relative of tortoises.
  - sea turtle
  - fish
  - reptile
- In India's coastal waters we can see a species of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - tortoises
  - sea turtles
  - dolphin







3. Sea turtles come to the shore to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. visit their birth place
  - b. lay eggs
  - c. go back to sea
4. It is a problem for sea turtles to come ashore because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. they find it difficult to walk on sand
  - b. they don't know their way to the shore
  - c. animals and people hunt them
5. A turtle's flippers help it to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. swim
  - b. dig a nest
  - c. climb
6. A sea turtle camouflages its nest by tossing sand on it to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. hide its eggs from predators
  - b. incubate eggs in the warmth of the sun
  - c. keep the hatchlings safe

## VOCABULARY



- B. Find any five words related to sea from the text (Sections I & II).  
Write them below. Then use the words to frame sentences of your own.**

eg: beach                      –              We like to play in the sandy **beach**.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- C. Fill in the blanks with words that convey the correct meaning of the sentences.**

1. Tiny hatchlings fall \_\_\_\_\_ (**pray / prey**) to many predators.
2. Sea turtles live their \_\_\_\_\_ (**hole / whole**) life in the sea .
3. The turtles come ashore only during the \_\_\_\_\_ (**night / knight**).
4. The predators follow the \_\_\_\_\_ (**sent / scent**) of the turtles to eat their eggs.
5. The female turtles lay eggs and go back to the \_\_\_\_\_ (**see / sea**).

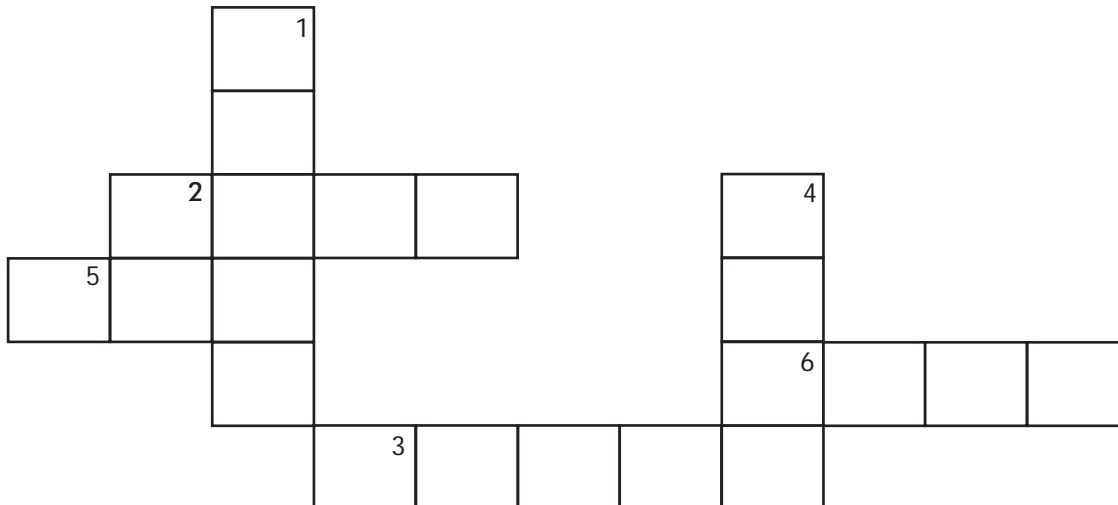




**D. Use the clues and fill in the crossword puzzle.**

1. This word rhymes with **seen**.
2. This animal has two horns and a spotted coat.
3. This is a huge sea animal.

4. Sounds like **hair**
5. Shines brightly
6. Rhymes with **load**



**LANGUAGE CHECK POINT**

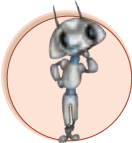
Don't Say	Say	Note
I cannot see much stars in the sky.	I cannot see many stars in the sky.	Use many with countable plural nouns. Use much with uncountable nouns.
I have little friends.	I have few friends.	Use few with countable nouns. Use little with uncountable nouns.
Every test contains twenty questions.	Each test contains twenty questions.	Each refers to an individual object or person. Every refers to a group of objects or people.
Is there any lemonade left?	Is there some lemonade left?	Any is used for questions and negatives. Some is used for positive.



**\* LISTENING**

**E. Listen to the flash news. Read the questions given below, then listen to the flash news again and complete the responses.\***

Questions	Responses
What escaped from the zoo?	a tiger <input type="checkbox"/> a monkey <input type="checkbox"/>
When did it escape?	at 10 p.m <input type="checkbox"/> at 10 a.m <input type="checkbox"/>
How did it escape?	pushed out of the fence <input type="checkbox"/> went over the fence <input type="checkbox"/>
What did the zoo-keeper do?	rang up the police <input type="checkbox"/> rang up the warden <input type="checkbox"/>
When should you call or dial 180345778?	when you see the monkey <input type="checkbox"/> to report the escape of the monkey <input type="checkbox"/>

**SPEAKING**

**F. Look at the picture. Work in groups and give a short talk about it using the words given below.**

sand waves when as soon as collect enjoy hatchlings basket boys  
night rough sea many eggs incubate hatchery after



**Volunteers of the students' Sea Turtle Conservation Network (SSTCN) release Olive Ridley hatchlings into the sea.**

\*Listening text is on page-157





## PICTOGRAMMAR



**The batsman**

The **SUBJECT** of a sentence is always a noun or a word / words that can take the place of a noun.



**hits the ball**

The **PREDICATE** of a sentence includes the verb and the object if there is one.



**We**



**are going to the zoo.**



**Raju**



**has to rest.**

## USE GRAMMAR



**G. Make meaningful sentences from the table given below.**

A turtle	live in the sea.
	is huge.
	have a connection with the land.
Turtles	are found in coastal waters.
	are wonderful creatures.
	has flippers to swim.



**H. Write a suitable sentence for the pictures given below.**



**I. Match the two halves of the sentences and read them.**

- |                 |   |                                       |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Sea turtles  | - | threaten the survival of sea turtles. |
| 2. Hatchlings   | - | uses its front flippers to swim.      |
| 3. A turtle     | - | come ashore to lay eggs.              |
| 4. Many factors | - | cut open the leathery egg shell.      |





## WRITING



- J. Tortoises and Turtles are not the same. Read the facts given below. List the similarities and differences between them.**

Tortoise	Turtle
reptile family	reptile family
land animal	sea animal
has a long life	lives for many years
uses tiny feet to walk	uses flippers to swim
eats grass, weeds and flowers	eats insects and bugs

Similarities	Differences

- K. Write a paragraph from the contents of the table given above. Frame sentences with these words – but, as well as, whereas.**

eg. A turtle as well as a tortoise belongs to the reptile family.

## CREATIVE WRITING



- L. Describe the picture in about fifty words and give a suitable title. Make use of the words / phrases given below.**

many sea animals wonders ocean fishes different colours  
sizes varieties rare species deep sea under the sea



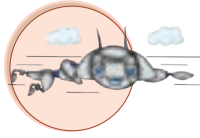




## Poem

# The Crocodile

### WARM UP



**What do crocodiles eat? Talk about it.**



How doth the little crocodile  
Improve his shining tail,  
And pour the water of the Nile  
On every golden scale!  
How cheerful he seems to grin,  
How neatly spreads his claws,  
And welcomes little fishes in,  
With gently smiling jaws!



**Lewis Carroll**

Lewis Carroll was an English writer. His most famous book is 'Alice in Wonderland'. This poem appears in it.

### GLOSSARY

doth - an expression of old English for 'does'  
improve - to become better than before  
cheerful - happy  
gently - softly, mildly



### Do you know

The Madras Crocodile Bank is one of the largest reptile zoos in the world. It is a shelter for native wildlife and a secure nesting beach for Olive Ridley Turtles. It is located at East Coast Road, Kovalam in Chennai.





**A. Read the poem aloud in pairs.**

**B. Choose the rhyming words from the box and write them in the correct blanks.**

**file      din      caws      nail      while      paws      mail      thin**

1. claws, jaws, \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_
2. grin, in, \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_
3. crocodile, Nile, \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_
4. tail, scale, \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Read these lines and answer the questions given below.**

1. *How cheerful he seems to grin*  
Who does 'he' refer to?
2. *And pour the water of the Nile*  
What does the Nile refer to? Where is it?
3. *And welcomes little fishes in*  
*With gently smiling jaws!*  
Who welcomes the fish? Why?  
Which line tells you that the crocodile is hungry?



**D. Work in pairs. Share your answers with your partner.**

1. What is the poem about?
2. How does the crocodile's tail look?
3. What does 'improve his tail' mean?
4. How does he spread his claws?
5. Why does he welcome little fishes?
6. Which line talks about the crocodile's mouth and his shape?

## WRITING



**E. What does the poet say about the crocodile? Write in your own words.  
(in about fifty words)**





## Owlie

### Supplementary



'Mom,' Payal yelled in panic. 'Owlie's gone!'

'Where would she have gone, Payal?' her mother said crossly. 'She was right there, sleeping in her cage a little while ago.'

'But she's not there now. And, Mom, the door to the garden is open!' That got Payal's mother running into the room. Sure enough, there was no sign of Owlie.



What was an owl doing in a house, you ask? Well, Payal's house was home to all kinds of creatures, mainly abandoned animals. People brought lost dogs, injured cats and baby birds that had fallen out of their cages to Payal's mother. It wasn't that they had a large farm or even a large house. It's just that everyone knew that Payal's mom had a BIG heart! But even in a household used to such unexpected visitors, Owlie's advent had been memorable. Shefali didi had just turned up one day, carrying a carton.

When Payal's mother opened the carton, there was the smallest of owlets sitting in one corner, a small ball of brown and grey. Payal's mother picked her up gently and placed her in her lap, talking to her just as she would to the dogs. She had never handled owls before, so she was very careful not to get pecked. When the owl got used to her, and seemed relaxed enough, Payal's mother placed her inside a cage. There were always empty cages in Payal's house – just in case a bird dropped in! The baby owl climbed on the rod and settled herself.

'Mom, what shall we call her?' asked Payal, all excited. 'You choose a name', said her mother, smiling. 'How about Owlie?' asked Payal. So Owlie it was. The name was settled, but there was a bigger problem. What does one feed an owl?

Owls are hunters. They eat rats and snakes and frogs. And in Payal's house, they were all vegetarian, even the dogs! Payal's mother was totally anti-meat. But now that Owlie had come to stay, she had to get over her dislike for meat. That was another reason why that day was memorable. It was the first day that meat was brought to the house! Payal got the number from her friend and called the meat shop to ask them to deliver half a kilogram of minced meat to the house. They put the meat before Owlie.







Of course, Owlle didn't know what to do with it. She was just a baby, after all. If the mother owl had been there, she would have softened the meat and shoved it down Owlle's throat. Payal's mother decided she had to be mother owl! She picked up a tiny bit of meat with her right hand and squished it up until it was soft. Then with her left hand, she pressed open Owlle's beak and shoved the food down. In a second, Owlle fell off her perch on to the floor of the cage. She lay on her back on the floor of the cage with feet up in the air.

'Mom!' Payal cried, 'You've killed her!' Payal's mother was equally aghast. 'Oh!' she said. 'Oh, what have I done? The poor, little bird!' After Payal and her mother had finished crying and hugging each other, they started talking bravely about where to bury Owlle. Just then, Owlle opened one eye and then the other. She got onto her feet and quietly climbed the perch!

Payal learnt later that falling on her back and pretending to be dead was Owlle's way of defending herself against danger. Not that Payal's mother was a danger to Owlle, but the baby owl did not know that then. So that was Owlle's first day at home.



In the beginning, Owlle had to be forced to eat. That was Mom's job. But Owlle soon realised that if a hand came towards her it meant food! Her mouth would open automatically and her beak would snap around what was offered. Only, Owlle found it difficult to know when she was being offered food, and would try to take a bit out of any hand that came her way. This meant lots of bitten fingers for Payal and her mother.

Reading up more about owls and their habits, Payal discovered that Owlle was a Spotted Owlet. She had the typical grey-brown coat, heavily spotted with white, the pale face, yellow eyes and the white neckband, which looked like a ribbon, Payal decided. Soon, Payal took over the job of looking after Owlle. She saw that the cage was cleaned every day. She filled the water bowl. Once Owlle began to eat by herself, Payal too could feed her. She loved the way Owlle took a piece of raw meat from her hand. During the day, Payal kept the cage covered. Owls are night birds, so they slept during the day. At night, when owls are active, Payal took off the cover. They had decided that they would let Owlle fly away once she had grown bigger. But that meant that she had to learn to fly. To do that, Owlle had to be in a closed room.

After much discussion, Owlle's cage was shifted to the library. It was a lovely room with two doors – one which led to the rest of the house and the other that opened into the garden. It was also Payal's favourite room. It had tall bookshelves and she spent hours





there, reading all kinds of books. The bookshelves also had lots of little knickknacks. Her mother loved pretty things, and displayed them here along with the books. So there were beautiful pieces of pottery, dolls from wherever they had travelled, and of course wooden and clay animals and birds from all around the world.

Once Owlie was moved to the library, strict rules were laid down for everyone in the house. The two doors were never to be left open – not at night, not in the day. Every night, Payal would leave the cage door open and put a plate of mincemeat on top of the cage. This was so that when Owlie flew out of her cage, she could also learn to find her food.

Initially, Payal would shut the cage door every morning when she popped in to say hello to Owlie before going to school. She would always find Owlie on her perch inside the cage, though the cage door was still open. But Payal knew Owlie was flying because she found bits of meat all over the room. After some time, Payal stopped shutting the cage door even during the day. After all, people seldom went into that room all day, and Owlie was always asleep, so there seemed little point.

Every day when Payal came back from school, the first thing she did was to peep into the library. Usually, she would find Owlie fast asleep on her perch. But today, it was different. The cage was empty and there was no sign of Owlie! And the door to the garden was open. 'Mom!' Payal howled. 'Who left the garden door open? How will we find Owlie now?' 'Don't panic,' said Mom. 'She must be somewhere around.' They shut the garden door and looked in every corner of the room. Behind doors, on top of the tall bookshelves, in every nook and cranny. No Owlie.

Tears ran down Payal's cheeks. They had wanted Owlie to fly away, but not so soon. She was still so small, how would she hunt for her food? What if a kite or eagle swooped down on her? Finally, Mom said, 'Well, now Owlie has gone, we may as well leave the doors open and air the room.' Wiping her tears, Payal threw open the doors to the room. She hoped secretly that Owlie would come in if the doors were kept open.

Mom left the room to go do her afternoon errands. When she came back a couple of hours later, Payal was sitting, gazing mournfully at Owlie's cage. 'Why don't you find yourself a good book to read?' Mom asked. She knew that reading a book was the only way Payal would cheer up. When Payal was sad, she always read. 'Okay,' sighed Payal, and started looking for a book she had not read.

She noticed a curio on a shelf that she had never noticed before. "Hello! Where did this one come from?" she wondered. "Where did her mother get the owl from?" She was about to pick it up when the curio opened one eye... It was Owlie pretending to be a curio! 'Mom!' bawled Payal. 'She's back!' 'Don't you ever give me a fright like that again,' she scolded the owl as she put her back in her cage. Payal swore later that Owlie winked back at her. She probably did.

**Vijaya Ghose**





**A. Identify the character/ speaker.**

1. Owlie's gone!
2. She opened one eye and then the other.
3. Don't panic.



**B. Choose the correct answer from the options given.**

1. The owlet was \_\_\_\_\_. (brown and grey / white and grey)
2. In Payal's family, they were all \_\_\_\_\_. (non-vegetarian / vegetarian)
3. The cage was shifted to the \_\_\_\_\_. (library / living room)

**C. Read the passage and answer the questions.**

Payal and her mother started talking bravely about where to bury Owlie. Just then, Owlie opened one eye and then the other. She got onto her feet and quietly climbed the perch! Payal learnt later that falling on her back and pretending to be dead was Owlie's way of defending herself against danger.

1. Why did Payal and her mother want to bury Owlie?
2. What did Owlie do then?
3. What did Payal learn from Owlie's pretence?

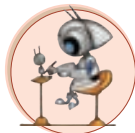
**D. Rearrange the following jumbled sentences in the correct order.**

- Payal's house was a home for abandoned animals.
- It was a small ball of brown and grey.
- She found an owlet in one corner.
- Payal's mother picked her up gently.
- Payal's mother opened the carton.
- One day they got a carton.

**E. Discuss in pairs. Then write the answers.**

1. What kind of a girl was Payal? What did she like? How did she behave with animals and people?
2. Do you think Owlie was happy to be with Payal? Give reasons for your answer.

**PROJECT**



**F. \*Listen to the teacher read the passage. Watch this website: <https://sstcn.org/> Then write a paragraph on Students' Turtle walk Chennai 2017.**

\*Listening text is on page - 155









## CONNECTING TO SELF



**G. Write a caption for these pictures. One is done for you.**

	Help the needy	
		

## STEPS TO SUCCESS

**H. Find their group name and write them in the blanks. One is done for you.**

eg: elephant, tiger, lion, monkey - Land animals

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. eel, seal, walrus, seahorse             | _____ |
| 2. pearl, coral, conch, oil                | _____ |
| 3. submarine, ship, yacht, ferry           | _____ |
| 4. kite surfing, scuba diving, parasailing | _____ |
| 5. albatross, penguin, pelican, fish hawk  | _____ |

## LEARNING LINKS AND REFERENCES

e-links	1. <a href="https://www.WorldWildlife.org">https://www.WorldWildlife.org</a> > Species
	2. <a href="https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gahir">https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gahir</a>
	3. <a href="https://sstcn.org/">https://sstcn.org/</a>
	4. <a href="http://www.incredibleodisha.org">www.incredibleodisha.org</a> > Gahirmatha - ...
Book	1. The world of Turtles and Crocodiles- Zai & Rom Whitaker and Indraneil Das
	2. Animal world - Aurobindo Kundu

## ICT Corner



## Sea Turtles

Experience the life of a sea turtle by playing the sea turtle game

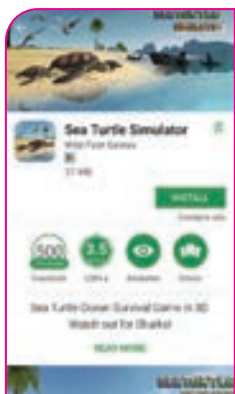
Screen shot of the sea turtle game platform:



## Procedure

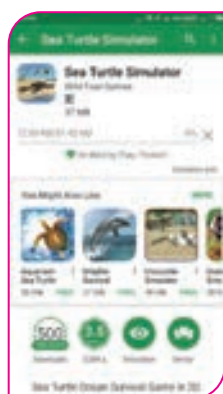
1. Scan the QR code. It will go to a website.
2. You can see a link for the software / application.
3. Click the link to download the software / application.
4. Open the game and you can move the turtle by using the pointers.
5. Like this you can find more games on sea turtles. Locate the appropriate one and use it.

## Steps to install the game



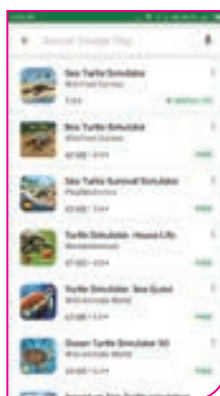
## Step – 1

Type the word, 'sea turtle' in the search bar of the Android play store



## Step – 2

Install the game and play it using the pointers



## Step – 3

You can install similar such applications from play store

## Language Activity

Share your views about the aquatic animals with your friend after playing this turtle game.