



Let's Build a Sandcastle

Created by the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher Education Section

Essential Question:

What are the important steps in building a sandcastle?

Lesson Overview:

Students will use temporal words to describe the process of building a sandcastle. They will explain why it is important to knock down their castle when they are finished building it.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to

- Recall information about sea turtles based on previous lessons
- Describe the process of building a sand castle
- Compose a sequence of events using temporal words to signal event order
- Describe human impacts on sea turtle hatchlings
- Identify ways to reduce human impacts on sea turtle hatchlings

North Carolina Standards:

First Grade:

Writing:

- **W.1.3** Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.

Second Grade:

Writing:

- **W.2.3** Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

Third Grade:

Writing:

- **W.3.2** Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.



- **W.3.10** Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Speaking and Listening:

- **SL.3.1** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 3 topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Language:

- **L.3.1** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- **L.3.2** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Time Frame:

Preparation: 5 minutes

Activity: 90 minutes

Materials:

- Paper
- Writing instruments
- Computer with internet access and a projector

Supplemental Background Information for Teachers:

Building a sand castle while you are at the beach is a lot of fun! However, when sea turtles hatch from their nests, they can become stuck in holes or blocked by tall walls of sand. This can create a number of problems for sea turtle hatchlings. If they are unable to get out of the holes, they could be eaten by another animal or die from exposure to the elements. Sea turtle hatchlings must make it to the ocean in order to survive. One of the things you can do to help sea turtles is to fill in holes you make and knock your sand castles down before you leave the beach.

Preparation:

Read through lesson plan and create an outline for younger students, if necessary. ...



Activity:

1. Ask students to envision the beach. What do they see, feel, smell? Ask students what they do at the beach. Have any of them built a sand castle before?
2. Students will think about the process of building a sand castle. What do they need? What steps need to be done?
3. Students should get with a partner and explain their materials and steps of building a sand castle.
4. Students can write their process in list form then transfer it to paragraph form or write directly in paragraph form. The goal should be for students to write one cohesive paragraph with the step by step process using temporal words such as “first,” “second,” and “third.”
5. Show a video of a sea turtle nest hatching:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMc9Vw-gOm0>. Ask students what would happen if there were holes or sand castles in the beach sand where the turtles were walking. Would sand castles be a problem for sea turtle hatchlings?
6. Discuss ways students can help with the problem of sand castles and beach holes and sea turtle hatchlings.
7. Students can add a paragraph about sand castles and sea turtles to their paper.

Evaluation:

1. Students should be evaluated on the nature of their writing including usage, mechanics, content, and grammar.
2. Have the students pair up. Each student should read their paragraph to one another. The student listening will follow the instructions exactly as they are read. If the instructions are correct the listener should have a sandcastle when they are done reading.

Extensions:

3. Students can create their own sand castle using sand or craft supplies.
4. Invite a guest speaker from a local sea turtle nest watch group to talk about their experiences.
5. Before writing a paragraph, write out the steps in a foldable. Label the folds “First” “Second” and “Last.” Below is a video on how to make a foldable for this activity:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-2onu8GUjI>.