

## Feeding Sea Turtle Exercise Teacher Hand out

**Topic:** Marine Animal Math, Marine Animal Careers

**Grades:** 3<sup>rd</sup> and up

**Background:** Sea turtles are reptiles and therefore their body temperature is determined by the environment around them. Sea turtles strand on Cape Cod every year in a state of “cold-stun”, and when rescued they are brought to rehabilitation hospitals such as the National Marine Life Center for rehabilitation. Sea turtles come up to Cape Cod during the summer following the gulf stream and the great food that Cape Cod Bay offers, as the waters get colder the animal’s instincts take over and they try to head south and get caught in the hook of Cape Cod. Part of rehabilitation is keeping up with the daily caloric needs of the patient. We are able to monitor the animal’s progress through weekly weights and measurements and also taking into account the amount of food being eaten by the animal. The National Marine Life Center mostly works with the Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle, which are the smallest and most endangered of the sea turtles. Kemp’s Ridelys lay nests on a five mile stretch of beach in Rancho Nuevo Mexico and a few nests have been found in Texas. This exercise is designed to have students not only look at a global problem, but also look at careers that use math, science and technology everyday.

### Set Up:

- Two model turtles ([www.leaveonlybubbles.com](http://www.leaveonlybubbles.com)) or model animals of your choice
- Two “tanks” – this could be a hula-hoop, area of carpet, tape outline, anything you have to show a separate space. We use vinyl that we purchased through oriental trading. Below is how we set up the “tanks” ([www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com)),
- Food –
  - 1) Make squid out of card stock or printer paper.
  - 2) Have children cut the squid into the same parts that National Marine Life Center Animal Care Team members do on the dotted lines. Make sure to remove the beak.
  - 3) Add play-doh, clay, or another source of weight to the back of the squid to make them heavier and tossable. We pretend each “squid ring” weighed 10 grams, “squid heads” 20 grams, and the “squid tail” 10 grams.
- Data Sheets – included with these instructions



### Instructions:

- 1) Set up two sea turtles. Models, other stuffed animals (not turtles), or the cut out and color one provided below.
- 2) Place a pool perimeter around them or place the “turtles” in the “pools. Food must be thrown gently and land inside the pool for it to be considered “eaten”.
- 3) Record tally marks in the chart below to keep track of how many pieces, and what kind of pieces, of squid the turtles each eat. Record this on the Feeding Sea Turtles Sheet
- 4) Complete the calculations to determine how many grams your sea turtles ate and answer the questions about how feeding your turtles went. These calculations and questions are on your Feeding Sea Turtles Sheet



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## Feeding Sea Turtles

You are now a marine animal husbandry volunteer. You have checked in with Animal Care Technician Gabbie and she has given you your instructions for the day. You will be feeding the sea turtles in tanks 1 and 2.

In tank 1 you will find a loggerhead sea turtle. He/she needs to get **200 grams of squid**.  
In tank 2 you will find a Kemp's Ridley sea turtle. He/she needs to get **120 grams of squid**  
Using the calculation below figure out how many grams of squid you need to prepare for each patient.

Throw squid into the tank while standing back so that the animals do not see humans feeding them. Make sure you are watching and also keeping track of each piece of squid eaten. In the feeding table below make tally marks for every piece of squid eaten.

	Loggerhead _____ g	Kemp's Ridley _____ g
SqH = Squid heads = 20 g		
SqR = Squid rings = 10 g		
SqT = Squid tails = 10g		

Now you need to find the total squid eaten for the loggerhead: You can also use the large Sea Turtle Feeding Chart.

\_\_\_\_\_ X 20g Squid Heads = \_\_\_\_\_ g Squid Heads  
(# of pieces eaten)

\_\_\_\_\_ X 10g Squid Rings = \_\_\_\_\_ g Squid Rings  
(# of pieces eaten)

\_\_\_\_\_ X 10g Squid Tails = \_\_\_\_\_ g Squid Tails  
(# of pieces eaten)

Add all of the grams of Squid = \_\_\_\_\_ g Squid  
Total squid eaten



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## Feeding Sea Turtles

Now you need to find the total squid eaten for the Kemp's Ridley: You can also use the large Sea Turtle Feeding Chart.

\_\_\_\_\_ X 20g Squid Heads = \_\_\_\_\_ g Squid Heads  
(# of pieces eaten)

\_\_\_\_\_ X 10g Squid Rings = \_\_\_\_\_ g Squid Rings  
(# of pieces eaten)

\_\_\_\_\_ X 10g Squid Tails = \_\_\_\_\_ g Squid Tails  
(# of pieces eaten)

Add all of the grams of Squid = \_\_\_\_\_ g Squid  
Total squid eaten

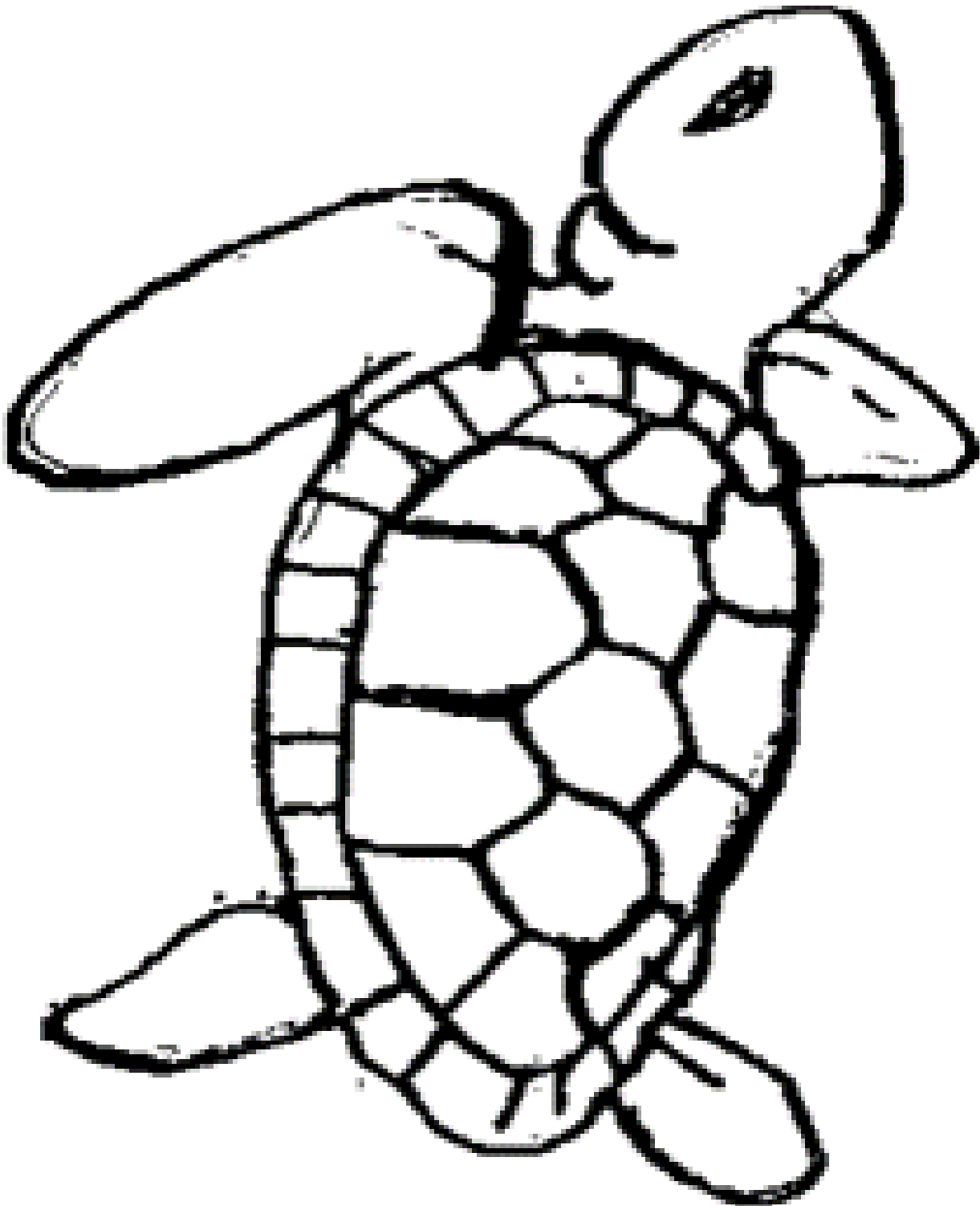
Did the turtle get enough squid? \_\_\_\_\_

Do we need to do a second feeding this afternoon? \_\_\_\_\_


If we need to do a second feeding how much squid do we need to prepare? This would be the total grams of squid the turtle needs per day, minus the number of grams the turtle ate during the first feeding. \_\_\_\_\_



# Color a Sea Turtle



# Preparing a Squid

 = BEAK  
This isn't good for sea turtles just starting to eat again, please remove it before feeding sea turtles.

