We're thankful for Teachers!

Not only during this season, but every day of the year! Thank you for your dedication to educating our next generation and inspiring a greater understanding and appreciation for the environment.

This month, we want to give you some resources to teach students about …

Amazing Adaptations!

Beak Bites
Find the right tool for the job

We recently came across some resources from The Cornell Lab about bird beaks. We recommend checking it out for some great books and activities to get your students thinking about adaptations.
Birds aren't the only species with beaks, though. Turtle have them too! One of our educators adapted (pun intended) activity 5, The Right Tool for the Job, for sea turtles. Check out our guide below to recreate this activity in your classroom.

**Beak Bites Activity Guide**

*Take a Virtual Trip to the Marsh*
*Special habitats call for special adaptations*

Diamondback terrapins get just as much attention as sea turtles at our hospital, but these species have different adaptations to function in their very different habitats.
Students are usually much more familiar with the ocean and beach than they are with the marsh ecosystem since it isn't a place people typically get to explore. This is why we love to take our campers on a marsh expedition in the summer, and usually, it's their favorite part!

We created this 360 tour of the marshes of Jekyll Island to help immerse more students in this fascinating habitat which is home to the diamondback terrapins.

Diamondback terrapins are adapted for some unique circumstances that are encountered in this environment. Fluctuating tides mean fluctuating salinity and temperatures. They have webbed feet for swimming, but with their sharp claws, they can also walk on dry ground. A flat beak built for crushing helps them to munch on fiddler crabs and periwinkle snails in the marsh.

For more information on this unique turtle species and the challenges they face on the Georgia coast, you can check out our Close Encounter - Diamondback Terrapin Project video on Facebook.

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**Giving Tuesday**

*December 3rd*

*Help us reach our goal of 200 symbolic sea turtle adoptions on Giving Tuesday!*
The Georgia Sea Turtle center is participating in Giving Tuesday on December 3rd, a day to harness the collective power of individuals, families, and communities to encourage giving and to celebrate generosity worldwide.

We are asking for your help in reaching a goal of 200 Adopt-a-Sea Turtle donations on Giving Tuesday, December 3rd. On Giving Tuesday, each adoption donation received will get a few extra surprise gifts in their mailed packets and a 15% off coupon for our online Gift Shop.

*Please note that ONLY adoptions purchased on December 3 will receive these extras.

Click here to check out our adoptable patients!

Read below to learn more about one of our adoptables, Glitter Mittens.

**Patient Highlight - Glitter Mittens**

*Sea turtles are equipped with many amazing adaptations for surviving natural threats in their ocean habitats, but these adaptations cannot protect them against many human threats.*
**Boat Strikes**

Boat strikes are one of the most common injuries to our sea turtle patients. In fact, 20-40% of sea turtle strandings along the Georgia coast are caused by boat strikes. Sea turtles are pretty difficult to see in our darker Georgian waters, and they need to surface to breathe, which is when they are often hit.

**June 30, 2019 - Glitter Mittens arrives**

Glitter Mittens arrived in our hospital with a boat strike fracture to the skull and a bulging eye. The eye was removed via surgery, during which this little turtle wore glittery bandages around his/her flippers, hence its name.

Although we feared Glitter Mittens would not survive, this resilient creature made a big turn-around. The wounds are now healed, and he/she is eating well and seems to navigate just fine around the tank. We will be holding on to this turtle for awhile to ensure a full recovery before considering its release.

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**See you in January!**

We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season! We will be back with more resources in the new year.
In the meantime, we invite you and your students to follow the weekly happenings at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center through the educational posts on our social media.

As always, if you would like to experience a field trip at our center, you can get started by sending us an email at gstcreervations@jekyllisland.com

Thanks again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

The Georgia Sea Turtle Center
*Education Department and Sea Turtle Patients*