Explorer Classroom Event Guide: PreK-2
The Life of a Sea Turtle | Vanessa Bezy

Explorer Classroom is for everyone! This guide is designed for your students or family to get the most out of Explorer Classroom events! After the event, please share your thoughts, activities, and learnings with us on Twitter @NatGeoEducation using #ExplorerClassroom.

October 5, 2020, 11:00 AM ET

BEFORE YOU TUNE IN

SIGN UP
Register here!

BEFORE THE EVENT
This event is recommended for learners in grades PreK-2. As a group, build your background knowledge prior to the event with one of these activities or any combination of the linked resources that best fits your needs:

- **Scroll** through this StoryMap to learn about marine biologist and conservationist Vanessa Bezy and familiarize yourself and your students with her work.

- Sea turtles have existed since the time of the dinosaurs! Watch Sea Turtles 101 (3:29) to discover more about these ancient creatures and the conservation efforts to save them.

- Green sea turtles are the world’s largest species of hard-shelled sea turtles and the largest nesting populations are located in Costa Rica, where Vanessa currently works. Learn more about these sea turtles from National Geographic Kids and the problems they might face from Explorer magazine.

- **Observe** this 3D model of a loggerhead sea turtle Vanessa worked with. What colors do you see? What textures? What else can you notice about the animal?

- **Create** your own sea turtle with this printable coloring page.

None of the suggested resources fit your needs? Find more in our Resource Library.

- **Brainstorm** questions for the Explorer that either focus on the person themself, or their work. Help your learner revise their questions making sure they 1) only ask one thing; 2) have a clear purpose; and 3) are specific. You may need to work together through a few drafts to arrive at a solid final question. Review questions together and select two favorites to ask on-air (if you registered) or via Twitter @NatGeoEducation using #ExplorerClassroom.
DURING THE EVENT

As you listen, have students take notes using one of the graphic organizers listed below.

- **Two-Column Chart**: Print copies or ask your students to draw their own two-column chart. Have your students write things they are learning in one column and in the other, write questions about that information, or draw something related to it.
- **Cause-and-Effect Diagram**: Have your students use this organizer to identify what happened (effect) and why it happened (cause).

AFTER THE EVENT

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Debriefing as a class or family is an important part of the learning journey. Discussion helps learners process ideas, reflect, and make new connections. Use these questions to help provide context to the event. The questions are open-ended and designed to facilitate a discussion about the event you just participated in together.

1. What is something you thought was important during the Explorer Classroom event? Did you already know about this or is it new to you?
2. What was one new thing you learned during the Explorer Classroom event you didn’t know before? What is one question you still have?
3. Why is exploration important?
4. What is something you would like to explore? Why?
5. What skills, tools, or knowledge would you need to explore?

**REFLECTION ACTIVITY**

We encourage students in grades PreK-2 to reflect on what they’ve learned from the Explorer during the event by completing one of the following tasks and sharing their work with the class, a friend, family member, or with us on Twitter—@NatGeoEducation #ExplorerClassroom—so the Explorer can see how much they’ve learned.

- Draw a picture illustrating one thing you learned from the Explorer.
- Act out what you learned about Vanessa and her work. If you have stuffed animals, take them out and teach others in your home about them. Consider making your own Explorer Classroom at home like she did!
- Make a poster about the explorer’s work and cheer them on. Share it on Twitter @NatGeoEducation #ExplorerClassroom and we’ll make sure they receive the encouragement!
- Record yourself talking about what you learned from Vanessa and how you could help. Share it with a friend and invite them to watch the recording of the show.

**EXTENSION RESOURCES**

Try one of these resources and keep exploring with National Geographic Education.

- **Join in the Explorer’s Mission**: What are you passionate about? Take some time to talk to your friends about your passion and help spread the word, like Vanessa does with sea turtles!
- **A Sea Turtle’s Life**: Do you wonder what it’s like to be a sea turtle? Scroll through this StoryMap to find out!
- **Everything Oceans**: Young learners discover a variety of cool ocean animals, including sea turtles, in these short videos from National Geographic Kids.

Looking for more ways to engage your students online, in-person, or at home? Find more on our Learn Anywhere page.