Explorer Classroom Event Guide: Grades 3-8
Studying Sea Turtle Behavior | 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 8, 2020, 10:00 AM ET and 2:00 PM ET

BEFORE YOU TUNE IN

SIGN UP
Register here!

BEFORE THE EVENT

This event is recommended for learners in grades 3-8. 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:

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

- Watch Sea Turtles 101 (3:29) to discover more about these ancient creatures and the conservation efforts to save them.

- Read about the critically endangered hawksbill turtle, an animal featured in the National Geographic Photo Ark.

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

**REFLECTION ACTIVITY**
We encourage students in grades 3-8 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 #Explorer Classroom—so the Explorer can see how much they’ve learned.

- Draw a picture illustrating one thing you learned from the Explorer.
- Write a short news article to tell others what the Explorer is working on and why that work is important.

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

- **A Sea Turtle’s Life**: Do you wonder what it’s like to be a sea turtle? Scroll through this StoryMap to find out!
- **Track Leatherback Sea Turtles**: Students use their mapping and math skills to track the migration routes of actual sea turtles as they cross the Atlantic Ocean. (Grades 3-5)
- **Sea Turtles and the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill**: Students research five species of sea turtles and use a map of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill to discover how sea turtles were affected by the oil. (Grades 4-8)
Looking for more ways to engage your students online, in-person, or at home? Find more on our Learn.Anywhere page.