# ACTIVITY BOOKLET

WORLD OCEANS DAY
JUNE 8th

# Sheldon the Turtle

Jennifer Lindsay, Paws On Play Guide at Brevard Zoo

## Learning objective and notes

Guests will be able to correctly identify natural sea turtle food items. Guests will be able to classify the litter as recyclable and trash. Guests will gain an understanding of how easily an animal can mistake ocean litter for food, and the importance of not littering. Activity works for individuals and small groups of kids and family members.

## Materials and set up

- A large plush animal (we used a sea turtle), altered by removing some stuffing and creating a stomach, esophagus, and mouth opening.

- Various bits of junk and sea life figurines.

## Activity description

Once you've completed alterations on the plush animal, you're ready to fill the stomach with natural prey items and litter!

Ask the guests to reach into the mouth and pull out an item. Have them categorize the item as natural prey or litter. If prey, explain which sea turtle species would be most likely to eat that particular item. If litter, ask if it's recyclable or garbage.

If a guest is unsure, prompts may be used: "Is that item man-made?" "A sea turtle with a sharp beak would probably be able to eat something with a hard shell." "Can you find the recycling symbol on that?" "Did you know that you can actually take plastic bags back to the grocery store for reuse?"

To close, make sure to stress the importance of cleaning up after ourselves and not littering. Note: Sheldon is a representative of all sea turtle species; interested guests were given more in depth information about the different species, especially regarding diet.