

Turtle Tracks



VIRGINIA
AQUARIUM
& MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

Track a sea turtle's journey after his release from the Virginia Aquarium.

Duration

Preparation: 5 minutes

Activity: 45 minutes

Supplies

- Area map (included)
- Tape
- Turtle tracking cards
- Turtle cut out (optional)
- Crayons or Markers
- Scissors

Background

This lesson plan contains two maps and two sets of tracking cards. One map uses latitude and longitude while the other uses a simple letter and number system. Choose the map that is right for your students. Discuss and review mapping methods, latitude and longitude, grid lines, and directions. Make predictions about Tiki Jr.'s path.

Background Information on Tiki Jr:

Tiki Jr., a green sea turtle, was found off Croatan Beach in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She was found on July 25th, 2007 entangled in a rope and rescued by the Virginia Aquarium's Stranding Team. There was damage to her right flipper and her left eye. She underwent rehabilitation at the Virginia Aquarium's Stranding Center and was released on October 20th, 2007 at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Just before her release, she was fitted with a satellite transmitter to track her journey. Additional information about Tiki Jr. can be found at:

http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/index.shtml?tag_id=65799a

Instructions

Before activity:

1. Project the map image or trace the outline of the coast onto a large piece of paper and display in the classroom.
2. Cut out the turtle tracking cards. There are nine turtle tracking cards. For larger groups, have students work together in groups or plot additional data points, found at the website listed above.
3. Cut out sea turtles. You can have students create their own sea turtle drawings as well.

Method:

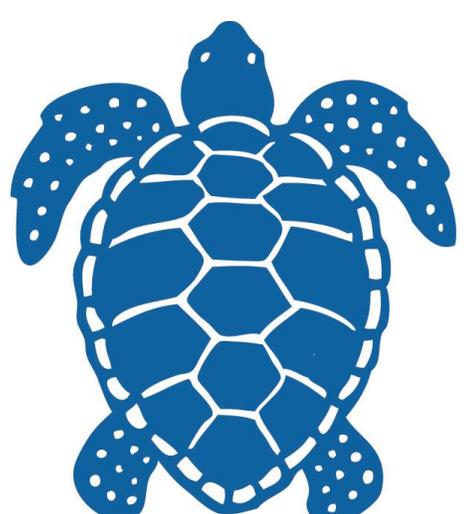
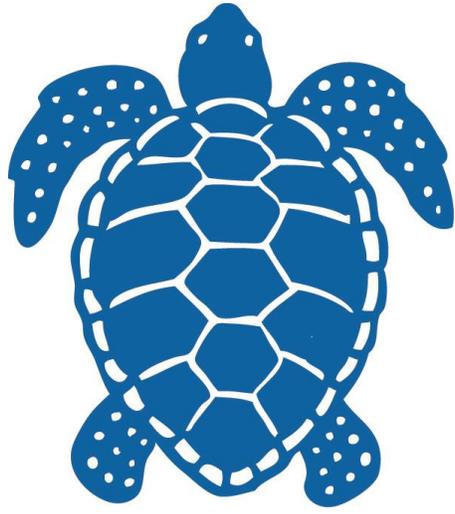
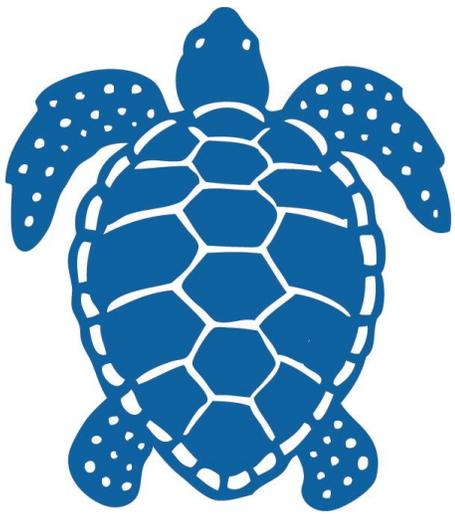
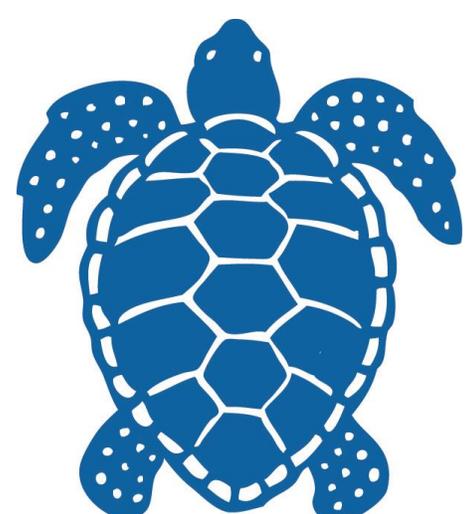
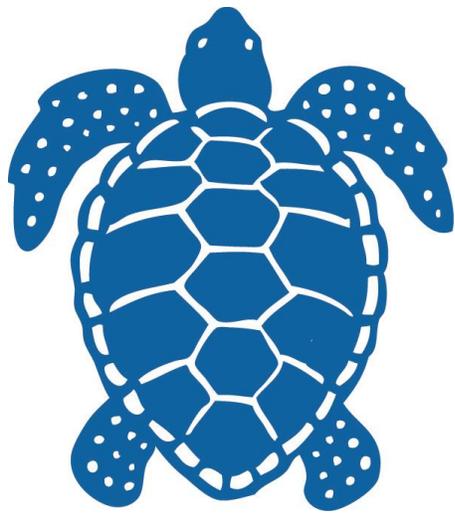
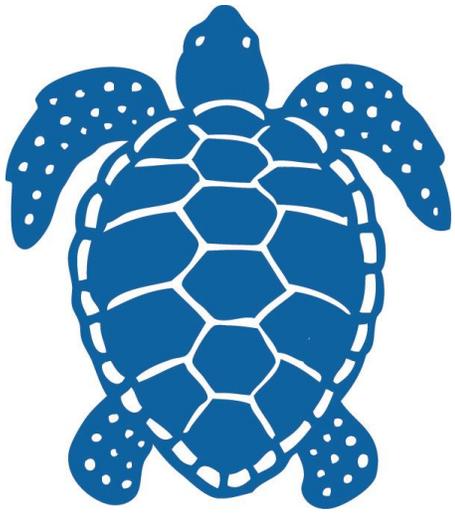
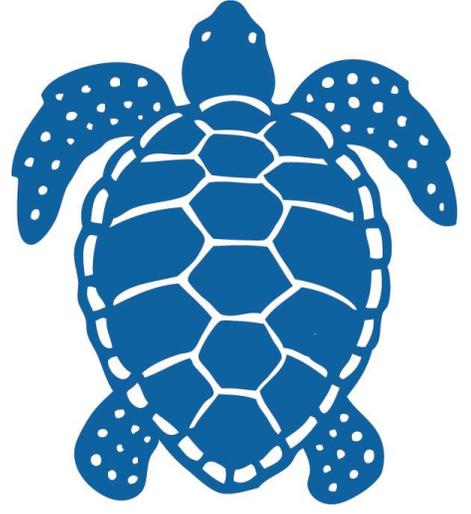
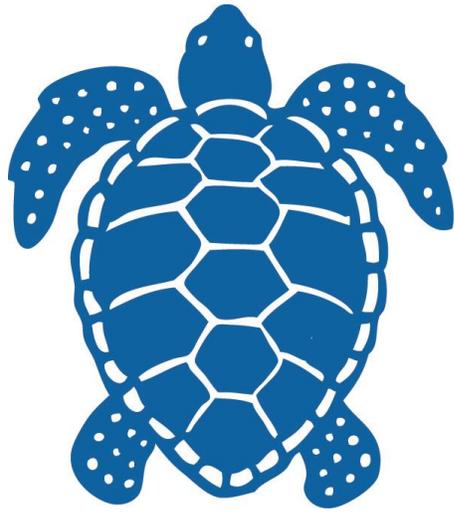
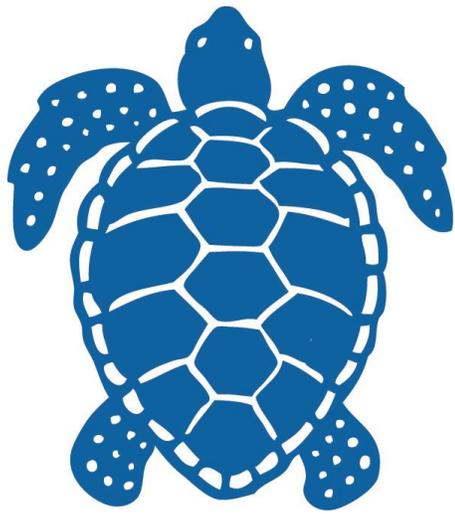
4. Read aloud Day 1 of Tiki Jr.'s journey and have students find this data point on the map. Use either the latitude and longitude coordinates or the letter and number coordinates depending on your student's abilities.
5. Tape the sea turtle image on the projected or drawn map to plot Tiki Jr. location.
6. Repeat this process for the remaining data points (9 cards total) until Tiki Jr. reaches the Florida Keys. When plotting Tiki Jr.'s position, keep in mind that Tiki Jr. is a sea turtle and will always be in the water or close to the shore, not on land.

Alternative Method:

Print out a map for each student or pair of students. Using the turtle tracking cards, have each student plot the turtle's course on their own maps. Laminate the maps and tracking data to reuse for future lessons.

Extension

Search www.seaturtle.org for additional tracking data on sea turtles and other animals.



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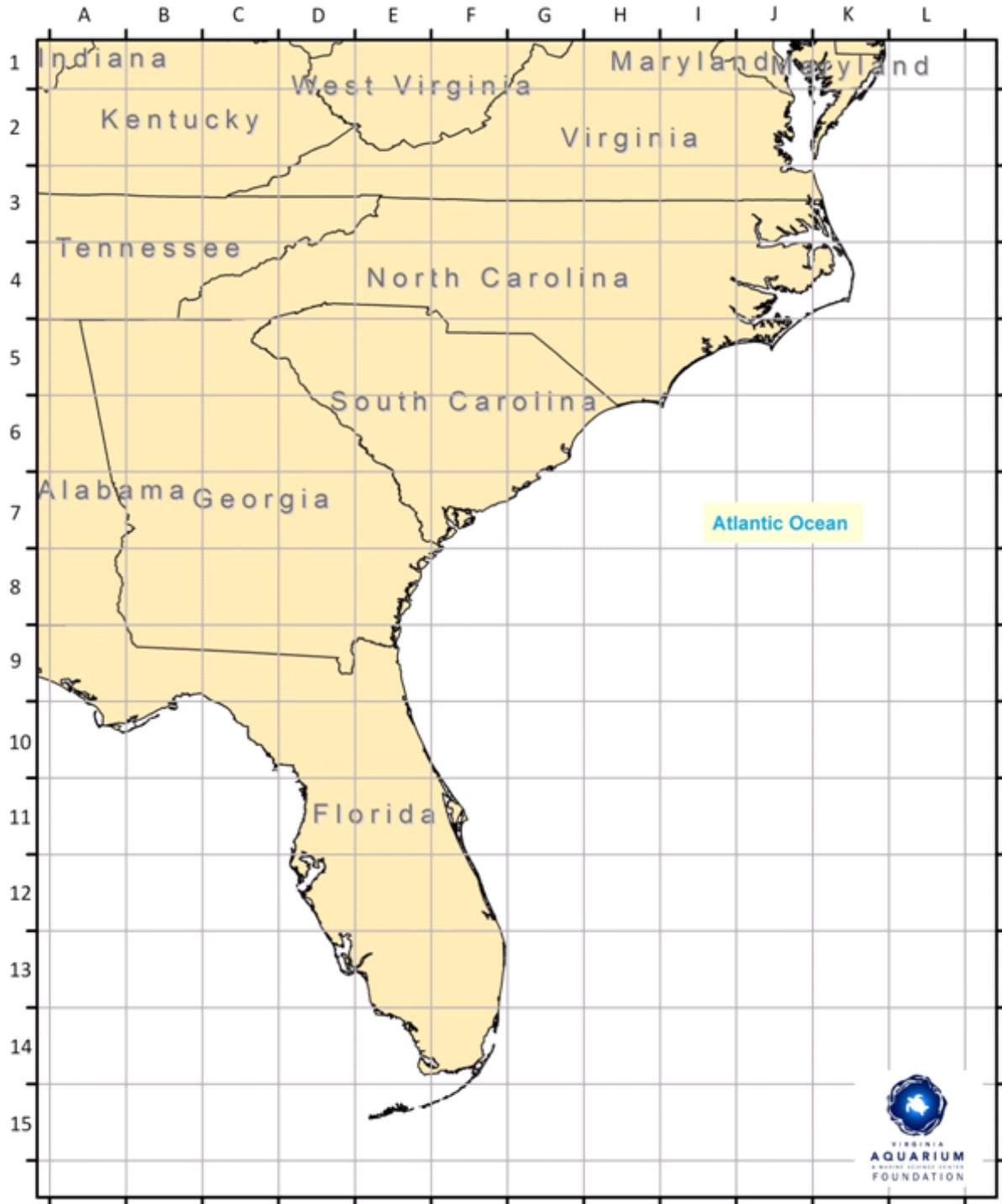
Letter and Number Tracking Cards

<p>Day 1</p> <p>Tiki Jr. was released near the Virginia Aquarium.</p> <p>K3</p>	<p>Day 3</p> <p>Tiki Jr. is hanging out in the Outer Banks.</p> <p>K4</p>	<p>Day 16</p> <p>It looks like Tiki Jr. is heading south for warmer water.</p> <p>J5</p>
<p>Day 21</p> <p>Keep going, Tiki Jr.!</p> <p>I6</p>	<p>Day 25</p> <p>Hello, South Carolina!</p> <p>G6</p>	<p>Day 33</p> <p>It's been more than a month, and Tiki Jr. has made it to Georgia!</p> <p>F8</p>
<p>Day 37</p> <p>Florida, the sunshine state!</p> <p>E9</p>	<p>Day 49</p> <p>Just a little farther, Tiki Jr.!</p> <p>F13</p>	<p>Day 130</p> <p>Tiki Jr. made it to the Florida Keys.</p> <p>E15</p>

Longitude and Latitude Tracking Cards

<p>Day 1</p> <p>Tiki Jr. was released near the Virginia Aquarium.</p> <p>36.7° N, 76.0° W</p>	<p>Day 3</p> <p>Tiki Jr. is hanging out in the Outer Banks.</p> <p>35.2° N, 75.5° W</p>	<p>Day 16</p> <p>It looks like Tiki Jr. is heading south for warmer water.</p> <p>34.6° N, 76.5° W</p>
<p>Day 21</p> <p>Keep going, Tiki Jr.!</p> <p>34.0° N, 77.9° W</p>	<p>Day 25</p> <p>Hello, South Carolina!</p> <p>33.3° N, 79.2° W</p>	<p>Day 33</p> <p>It's been more than a month, and Tiki Jr. has made it to Georgia!</p> <p>31.9° N, 81.0° W</p>
<p>Day 37</p> <p>Florida, the sunshine state!</p> <p>30.3° N, 81.5° W</p>	<p>Day 49</p> <p>Just a little farther, Tiki Jr.!</p> <p>26.8° N, 80.0° W</p>	<p>Day 130</p> <p>Tiki Jr. made it to the Florida Keys.</p> <p>24.5° N, 81.1° W</p>

"Tiki Jr.'s" Satellite Tag Data

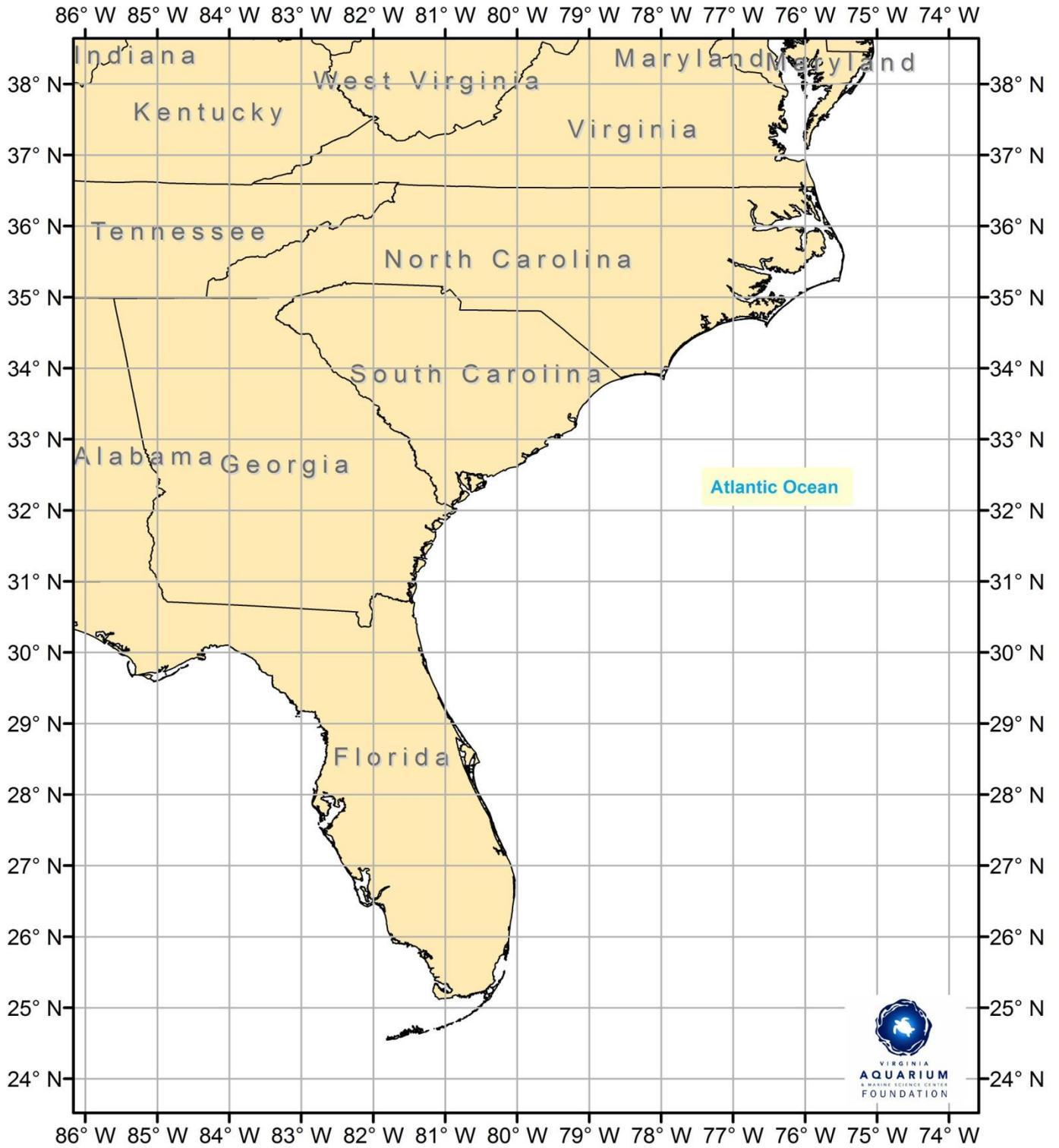


0 30 60 120 Miles

0 50 100 200 Kilometers



"Tiki Jr.'s" Satellite Tag Data



0 30 60 120 Miles

0 50 100 200 Kilometers

