

A Sea Turtle Story

By Mary Maden

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Teacher's Guide Questions

By Jessica Harris

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Study Guide Questions

Chapter 1: Pancake

- 1) The first sentence of this chapter describes the **setting**, the location where a story takes place. The sentence says, "It was a beautiful summer day." Look in the newspaper and find pictures and words that you think describe a beautiful day. Write the words *A Beautiful Day* in the middle of a piece of a construction paper. Cut out and paste the words and pictures that you find on the construction paper.
- 2) You learn a bit about loggerhead turtles in this chapter. Do some research and see what else you can discover about this species. Write a letter to a classmate in your class or another class teaching him/her about loggerhead turtles. Be sure to include the greeting and salutation.
- 3) The kind people that got Pancake out of the water shouted words of encouragement to her. Find words of encouragement in the newspaper. Write down five encouraging words that you found. Then pretend that you are a newspaper reporter. Write a short article about what was said to Pancake as the people waited for the rescuers to arrive.
- 4) What do you think is going to happen to Pancake? Write down your prediction. After you read the next chapter, be sure to check your prediction to see if you were right.

A Sea Turtle Story

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Chapter 2: The Rescue

- 1) Who would you call if you had an animal in trouble? Use the local phone book to locate the name and phone number of a vet in your city.
- 2) What is another word for a turtle's shell? The answer is in this chapter. Use your reading strategies to find the answer. Then write your own sentence using this word.
- 3) Dr. Mary, Dr. Beth, Lolly and others help to save Pancake's life. Find a similar story in the newspaper about a person or an animal being saved by other people. Write a short summary of the article making sure to include the names of the **victim** and the **rescuers**.
- 4) Lolly is eager to help Pancake make a full recovery. She volunteers her time at the sea turtle hospital. That means she doesn't get paid for her work, she just does the work because she wants to help the animals. What could you do as a volunteer? See if you can find a story about someone in need in your area that could use your help. If you can't find a story, talk with your classmates and teacher about a way you could volunteer to help a person or even an animal near you.

A Sea Turtle Story

Study Guide Questions

Chapter 3: The Sea Turtle Hospital

- 1) In this chapter you learn that all eight types of sea turtles in the world are either endangered or threatened. Make a poster (you can use pictures from the newspaper, magazines, internet, or your own) to persuade people to help save the sea turtles.
- 2) Lolly hopes to be a marine biologist someday. Do some research on this career. What do you have to know or be able to do before becoming a marine biologist?

What type of school do you have to go to? Do you need any special equipment? Pretend that you are a marine biologist and you need to hire another marine biologist to help you. Look in the classified ads in the newspaper. Find the section where people look to find jobs. Write your own want ad that could go in the newspaper.

- 3) When Pancake's shell began to heal her bandages were changed, her wounds were treated with an antibiotic cream and then covered with an artificial skin held on by Super Glue! What does artificial mean? First look up the word in the dictionary. Then, make a list of ten other things that could be made artificially.
- 4) At the end of Chapter 3, Lolly is concerned about Pancake not using one of her flippers. What do you think is wrong? What do you think will happen? Write down your prediction.

A Sea Turtle Story

Study Guide Questions

Chapter 4: Pancake's Progress

- 1) When Lolly's friend Zack notices that she is upset, he says she is "down in the dumps." This is called a figure of speech. Find another figure of speech and then use it in a short paragraph.
- 2) As Pancake healed, the screws, pins, and plates used to hold Pancake's shell together were removed. Then, new scutes grew and filled the white spaces. What is a scute? Do some research to find out. Then, draw a picture of a sea turtle and label the scute.
- 3) Imagine that you work for a newspaper. Write a news story about everything that has happened to Pancake so far. Be sure to look at a story in your own newspaper to see how it is organized. Don't forget to include a headline and a byline!
- 4) How do you think Lolly will feel if Pancake is released? Find at least three words in the newspaper that you think would describe her feelings.

A Sea Turtle Story

Study Guide Questions

Chapter 5: The Big Day!

- 1) Make a good-bye banner for Pancake's release day. Include signatures from all of the people that helped her recover. Be sure to include words of encouragement.
- 2) The story says that the local media were there to cover Pancake's release. Pretend that you are a reporter for your local newspaper preparing to write an article on Pancake's release. Make an outline of your article and include the "who, what, when, where and why."
- 3) Pretend that you are Lolly. Write a letter to Pancake retelling the experience that the two friends had together.
- 4) Do you think Pancake will be safe now that she is back in the ocean? Will she be okay after her long stay in the hospital? Record your prediction.

A Sea Turtle Story

Study Guide Questions

Chapter 6: Pancake Returns!

- 1) In this story you learn about four sea turtles that have come to the sea turtle hospital in need of help. Make a table to record this information.

Type of turtle	Injury
Loggerhead (Pancake)	
Loggerhead	
Loggerhead	
Green turtle	

- 2) In Chapter 6 you learn how a sea turtle has babies. List the steps involved in this process.

- 3) This story has a happy ending. Find two other stories in your newspaper that have happy endings. Use a highlighter to show the happy ending on each article. Choose one article and write a short summary.

- 4) An author is a person who writes (books, articles, stories etc.). Mary Maden is the author of this story. Find out more about the author and list five facts about her. You can look on her website at: www.marymaden.com for some facts. (Your class may want to write to the author and ask her one fact that you didn't find anywhere else.) Bonus: An illustrator is the person who does the artwork. Who is the illustrator of this story?