

The Box Turtle

Author/Illustrator: Vanessa Roeder
NC Kids Digital Library [ebook](#) available

Related Books:

[Gaston](#) by Kelly DiPucchio
Nerdy Birdy by Aaron Reynolds
How the Turtle Got Its Shell by Justine Fontes

Related Websites:

Book Trailer: https://youtu.be/0z4bqc_3yzw
Author's website: <https://vanessaroder.com/>

Activities:

Language Arts/Communication and Information Skills

- From the perspective of the turtle, write a letter to the other turtles about how it made him feel when they made fun of his shell.
- Conversely, write a letter from the perspective of one of the other turtles, apologizing for making fun of the turtle and telling why he now knows his behavior was wrong.
- Compare this turtle to the one in the fable, "The Tortoise and the Hare"



Math/Science/Technology

- Research turtles. What are the characteristics specific to box turtles?
- In the story, the turtle's companion is a crab. Research crabs; compare/contrast crabs and turtles.
- Using the makerspace, design a shell for the box turtle. What are the advantages and disadvantages of your design? How can you improve upon it?
- Research where turtles fit in the food chain/food web.

Social Studies/History/Geography

- Plot on a map where different species of turtles are located in the world
- Some NC beaches protect sea turtles. Here is a link to sea turtle information/videos from Holden Beach, NC: <https://holdenbeachnc.com/video-of-live-sea-turtle/>

Art/Music/Drama

- Box turtle coloring page: <https://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/cute-eastern-box-turtle>
- Egg carton turtle craft: <https://homeschoolpreschool.net/egg-carton-turtle/>
- Paper Plate turtle craft: <https://www.firefliesandmudpies.com/tissue-paper-and-paper-plate-turtle-craft/>
- Draw a turtle-easier: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKYF0FiODw>
- Draw a turtle-harder: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DXTWTbd8G4>
- Coloring pages from author:  The Box Turtle - coloring-pg-2.jpg ,  The Box Turtle - coloringpage.jpg

Enrichment Express

- Put students in groups and let them create a reader's theater or play of the story. Let them create shells for the turtle to use as props.
- Pull out common throw away objects and ask students to brainstorm ways they could be made useful for people.