

Ties that Bind!



CITY OF
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RECREATION SERVICES

Did you know that all 7 species of sea turtle are either endangered or threatened? What this means, is that if we don't start helping to protect their home, they could be extinct.

When a species is extinct, that means it is gone forever.

So what exactly is putting the sea turtles in danger? Well, here at Gumbo Limbo we have noticed that a lot of the sea turtles are here because of marine debris! **Marine debris is pretty much a fancy word for garbage in the ocean, and there is a lot of it!**

Sea turtles who come through our hospital have either **ingested** marine debris, which means they accidentally ate it, or they became **entangled** in it, which means it somehow got wrapped around an area of their body. This often happens with monofilament, also known as fishing line!

Materials:

- A large rubber band or hair tie
- Small object that simulates food (popcorn, dried beans, rice, etc.)
- Paper plate
- Safety goggles in case rubber band breaks
- Timer

Activity: Part I

1. Wrap rubber band or hair tie around the back of your hand. Your hand represents a sea turtle's body.
2. Place your 'free' hand in your pocket or behind your back.
3. Take 10 seconds to try to remove the band/ tie.
 - a. Think about how it felt trying to remove the band/ tie.
 - b. How do you think this would affect a sea turtle's behavior?
 - c. How do you think this can be avoided?



Activity: Part II

1. Place food simulation items on plate.
2. Wrap band/ tie around your fingertips.
3. See how many food items you are able pick up in 5 seconds.
4. Repeat with band/ tie wrapped more.
 - a. What trend are you noticing?
 - b. Do you think it is easy or difficult to eat with monofilament wrapped around your 'beak'?