

## Good Tourist, Bad Tourist [ME]



**Grades:** 6-8

**Time:** 45 minutes to 1 hour

**Goals:** To create an eco-friendly brochure about coastal tourism.

**Objectives:**

Students will be able to: define eco-tourism; describe the best practices for tourists to follow for migrating species; and create brochures for local tourists.

**Materials:**

Travel magazines/brochures

White paper

Computers (Microsoft Office)

**Procedures:**

1. Pre-Activity (introduction): Begin with a discussion about migrating species along the Atlantic coast and why they migrate. Use the background information from other lessons in this unit to help guide you. Explain that there are certain practices that are considered eco-friendly and some that are considered harassment and illegal by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act. Write their answers on the board in two lists and have them create lists of their own on their white paper.
2. Activity: Divide the class into groups of 3-4 students and pass out the travel magazines and brochures. Give them the opportunity to browse through them for approximately 10 minutes to get ideas of how they want to create their own brochures. Explain that they will be creating an eco-tourism brochure for the viewing of marine species as they migrate along our coast. Have them work in groups for approximate 20 minutes and then use the Microsoft Office software (either Word or Publisher) to digitally create their brochures.
3. Post-Activity (review): Have each group present their brochures to the class (this can be done if there is time left at the end of class or in another class period). Make sure each group clearly identified the species they are promoting for tourism, gave explicit instructions of how to view these species, and what not to do in the wild. Discuss any local opportunities students may have available to them to view migrating species in an eco-tourism setting.

**Key Words:**

Eco-tourism

Migration

Marine mammal

Eco-friendly



## Background Information:

\*Adapted from The Nature Conservancy\*

According to the World Conservation Union, the definition of eco-tourism is, “environmentally responsible travel to natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature, that promote conservation, have a low visitor impact, and provide for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local peoples.” An example of this type of ecotourism would be a field trip to Costa Rica to volunteer with a sea turtle nesting group or rehabilitation center. The cost of the trip would benefit the community the sea turtles nest near and the volunteer work you provide will help stabilize the populations of sea turtles for future generations.

Most tourism today does not include this type of responsibility to the traveler and increased tourism in certain areas that are susceptible to degradation requires planning, management, and education of the travelers. Not only can ecosystems be destroyed by wrong practices, the local communities and cultures can become affected by foreign visitors

Tourism of any kind though, can provide opportunities for local communities to grow as well as provide scientists with vital information about the natural area and its wildlife. It provides generated revenue for the continued protection and growth of national parks and reserves as well as the safety and protection of the wildlife that may use the area for all or part of their lives. It also provides necessary education on which practices are harmful or hurtful to species and which practices are vital for their survival.

