

# Structure and Function: Box turtle

Description: Students will make close observations of a box turtle through images and video to think about different structures and their functions.

**Grade Range** (suggested): PreK-2

## **Materials**

- Student data sheet (includes images and video link for students to observe)
- Video of box turtle eating: [bit.ly/PNNMOpal](http://bit.ly/PNNMOpal)

## **ENGAGE**

1. Introduce students to the images of the turtle on the data sheet. Ask students to share or note anything they notice or wonder.

## **PREPARE TO EXPLORE**

2. Tell students that today, they will be thinking about the different body parts (structures) that they can observe on the turtle, and think about what the body part is used for (function).

## **EXPLORE**

3. Have students observe closely the images on the data sheet and the video ([bit.ly/PNNMOpal](http://bit.ly/PNNMOpal)) of the box turtle.
4. Then ask students to record with pictures and/or words what body parts they see, and what those body parts might be used for. (*in the video, you can observe the turtle using its mouth or beak to eat a mealworm as food, in the photo you can observe the turtles claws that it uses to dig in the soil for food or shelter*)

## **REFLECT and SHARE**

5. Ask students to describe the evidence they collected on their data sheet to someone else.
6. Ask students to act out some of the body parts and their functions.
7. Ask students to think about whether all of the different body parts they noticed do the same thing. What body parts help the turtle find and eat food? Which body parts help protect the turtle? (*Guide students to conclude that different parts are used in different ways to help the box turtle survive.*)

## **Extensions and Variations:**

Repeat this activity with other animals or plants! Use images or videos from the Nature Museum to spark student wonder.

## Structure and Function: Box Turtle

1. What do you **notice** and **wonder** about the box turtle from the photos and video?



2. Use **words** and **pictures** to record what you notice about the box turtle's body parts.

What <u>body parts</u> do you see on a box turtle?	What do you think the body part does?