THINKING WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Video: Bird Buffet

Sequence Nonfiction Text Structure
(life cycle)

Oliver spends his summer days fishing and catching toads in the stream behind his house. Oliver and his friend, Luke, were fishing one afternoon and noticed a small turtle sitting on a rock. After close observation they noticed orange coloring on the outer edge of the shell. Curious to know more about this turtle, Oliver and Luke began an Internet search. They found pictures of painted turtles that resembled the one near the pond, but found information on many different turtles in the United States, too. The loggerhead turtle of the United States caught their interest because of its interesting name. As they read the information from one website they noticed that it was an example of life cycle Sequence Nonfiction Text Structure.

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read ***Loggerhead Life Cycle*** and create a *Think Aloud* and Graphic Organizer with your family or friends.

Then compare your thinking with **Oliver's Think Aloud and his Graphic Organizer**.

thinking ALOUD
Making Sense of Literacy

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Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about turtles. Think about what you've learned about sequencing. Share your thoughts with your family and friends.

While You Read:

Notice signal words that can help you determine the order of the events. You may want to highlight signal words in blue and the events in green. (You may use any colors available to you – just remember your color scheme!)

After You Read:

- Think about this question, "*What are the sequence of events in the loggerhead turtle's life cycle?*"
- Discuss your ideas with your family or friends. Together, create a collaborative Think Aloud about how you used Sequence Nonfiction Text Structure to determine the life cycle. Share your *thinking* with each other.

Loggerhead Life Cycle

Loggerhead turtles are the largest of all hard-shelled turtles. Though they are listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened, they can be found in all but the coldest oceans throughout the world. Loggerheads are most abundant in U. S. waters.

Every two to three years, during the spring and summer, the female makes a journey back to the beach where she hatched as a baby. Some females have to travel thousands of miles in order to return to this location. After mating, the female Loggerhead crawls onto the sand, digs a nest, and lays between 70-150 eggs. Then, she covers the eggs with sand and immediately returns to the water. During the nesting season, the female will lay more eggs on this same beach every 14 days or so.

After 55-60 days, Loggerhead hatchlings emerge from their shells during the night. Instinctively, the hatchlings scurry toward the brightest horizon, which is usually over the ocean. Without protection, and with many things threatening them, most Loggerhead hatchlings do not survive. Those that do will reach full maturity when they are between 20-35 years old. Loggerhead turtles can live for over 50 years.

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Create a Graphic Organizer:

After you have determined the life cycle sequence of the loggerhead turtle, create a graphic organizer below to represent your thinking and to help you remember the author's main points.

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Compare your Think Aloud with Oliver's Think Aloud:

Oliver's Think Aloud: I know from the title that I'm going to read about the Loggerhead's life when I read the words, "life cycle." I also read that this type of turtle is the largest. I'm thinking they must be really big! That's cool. Since the title has helped me to know that I am going to follow the life cycle of this huge turtle, I will use a *life cycle map* as my *graphic organizer*. I also know that this text will be written in *sequence, or in order*. I know this because life cycles follow living things through different stages in their lives and show how each stage leads to the next. Since I'm working with sequence text structure, I know I should be on the look out for words that will signal order. Knowing this will make it easier when I record the key stages of the *life cycle*.

I read that the loggerhead only lays eggs every two to three years! The words "during the spring and summer" are seasonal words that signal a time of year. This helps me know exactly when they lay their eggs. "After mating" provides another sequence signal word that helps me understand an order of events. I'm thinking "70-150 eggs!" are a lot! I see "Then" that helps me to know that *after* laying the eggs she returns to the water. The words, "During the nesting season," also help me to understand that she doesn't just lay eggs one time; she does it several times during this season.

That is surprising, only "55-60 days" to be hatched. Humans have to wait nine months! The word "after" at the beginning of the sentence helps me understand that *next* they "scurry toward the brightest horizon, which is usually over the ocean." How do they know what to do? That is interesting! It is sad that many don't actually survive.

I see that loggerheads are fully mature between 20-35 years old. That is a wide age span. However, that helps me to know when they begin the mating process. One day the females will return to the beach where they were hatched and start the process over.

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Every two to three years, during the spring and summer, the female makes a journey back to the beach where she hatched as a baby. Some females have to travel thousands of miles in order to return to this location. **After mating**, the **female Loggerhead crawls onto the sand, digs a nest, and lays between 70-150 eggs. Then, she covers the eggs with sand and immediately returns to the water. During the nesting season**, the female will **lay more eggs** on this same beach **every 14 days or so.**

After 55-60 days, Loggerhead hatchlings emerge from their shells during the night. Instinctively, the hatchlings **scurry toward the brightest horizon, which is usually over the ocean.** Without protection, and with many things threatening them, most Loggerhead hatchlings do not survive. Those that do will reach **full maturity when they are between 20-35 years old.** Loggerhead turtles can live for over 50 years.

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Compare your Graphic Organizer with Oliver's Graphic Organizer:

Oliver's Graphic Organizer: "Because the author is telling about the life cycle of turtles I am going to create a life cycle graphic organizer to record the events in sequence."

Questions to Think About:

- How do *signal words* help Oliver make sense of the text?
- How does the *Life Cycle Graphic Organizer* help Oliver determine the sequence of the life cycle?
- Why might this process help you make sense of text?
- When might this process be useful?

Every 2-3 years; spring and summer; female travels to the beach where she was hatched to mate

Crawls on sand to dig a nest; lays 70-150 eggs; covers and returns to water; repeats every 14 days

55-60 days hatchlings emerge from shells during the night; head to the horizon over the ocean

Fully mature at 20-30 years old