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TURTLE OUT OF BOUNDS: Terrapins Off-Screen by Judi Harris

Are there turtle fan(atic)s on your holiday shopping list? Do you find yourself receiving terrapin-related gifts from friends and family who know of your passion for Logo? You are not alone. It seems that a fondness for "pixelated" Logo turtles has engendered an attraction to the reptiles themselves for more than one Logo enthusiast. In this month's column, I'd like to share some non-electronic turtle resources.

Turtle Gifts
The Center for Marine Conservation (formerly the Center for Environmental Education) has worked to conserve marine habitats, prevent marine pollution, manage fisheries, and protect endangered marine species since 1972. It also publishes a delightful mail-order gift catalog that includes many sea turtle items, such as jewelry, toys, clothing, sculpture, and housewares. A catalog may be requested by writing to:

Whale Gifts 167-2 Elm Street P.O. Box 810 Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Credit card orders may be placed at any time by calling 1-800-227-1929 (in Connecticut, 1-388-4436).

More information about the conservation efforts of this organization may be requested by writing to:

Center for Marine Conservation
1725 DeSales Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20036

Turtle Books
An electronic search of R.R. Bowker's "Books in Print/Reviews Plus" CD ROM (copyright 1988, Online Computer Systems, Inc.) revealed the following list of children's books about turtles or tortoises.


Turtle Poems

Regional and city libraries often have literature indexes that can be consulted to find turtle folktales and poems. The following list of poems found in many popular poetry anthologies was collected in this way, and can be consulted to provide terrapin-related study for older students.

H. Asquith, "The Tortoise."
E. Dickinson, "Too Much Proof Affronts Belief."
J. T. Fields, "Song of the Turtle and Flamingo."
A. A. Knipe, "A Discovery."
D. H. Lawrence, "Tortoise Shout."
V. Lindsay, "The Little Turtle."
W. de la Mare, "Old Shellover."
H. Wing, "Turtle Town."
E. Wylie, "The Tortoise in Eternity."

My favorite turtle poem was written by Ogden Nash. In an amusing way, it expresses the wonder that I feel about the instructional fertility of such a seemingly simple notion as the turtle.

The turtle lives 'twixt plated decks
Which probably conceal its sex.
I think it clever of the turtle
In such a fix to be so fertile
(Ogden Nash, "The Turtle")

It seems that powerful ideas are expressed in many forms.

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