

Lesson Plan 1: Turtle Alert!

A new hotel complex is set to be built along the beachfront in Turkey, but people have many different views about whether this complex should be built at all. It is your job to decide what to do. You have the final say whether this complex is built, either as originally planned or as a compromise.

Below are summaries of the different views concerning this issue. Read them all and discuss them with your group. Once you have read each viewpoint, you must decide how important it is to the overall plan. Do YOU think that the hotel complex should go ahead?

HOTEL OWNERS

Understandably, the owners of the land want the hotel to be built. It is their business and will make them very wealthy.

LOCAL PEOPLE

Some local people say that the hotel complex will be very good for local people. They say that it will mean more jobs and will attract more tourists to the town. This will be good for all the local businesses and therefore for all local people.

Others say that they like their peaceful town just the way it is and they don't want hundreds of tourists wandering around. They are concerned about noise levels, litter and trouble from aggressive tourists.

CONSERVATIONISTS

Conservationists say that this complex must not be built. There are two species of turtle nesting on this beach and both are endangered. If the beach were ploughed up to build a hotel, the turtles' nesting site would be lost. And with the bright lights of a hotel complex, they may never return. Also, tourists sitting on the beach would stop the turtles from nesting there. Conservationists say we must give the turtles a chance to survive.

Now you have discussed the different views, write an essay that shows each point of view and write down what your views are and why. Would YOU let the hotel be built?

For further information, visit the World Society for the Protection of Animals Web site:
www.wspa.org.uk