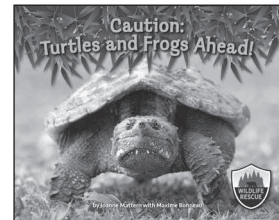


# EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

## Wildlife Rescue: *Caution: Turtles and Frogs Ahead*

### Series Overview

When humans build highways or clear land for development, they often put wildlife in danger. This series looks at unusual ways people around the world have come to the rescue of threatened species by providing safe ways to adapt to their changing habitats.



Lexile: 570

Words: 759

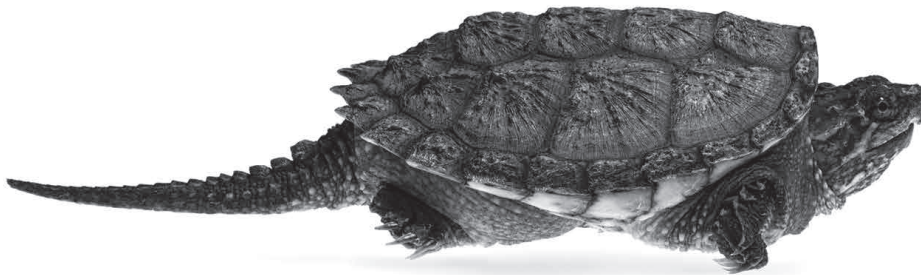
### About This Book

Reptiles and amphibians need special help crossing roads. This book focuses on different approaches, from turtle crossing guards in New York State to bucket brigades for frogs and toads in rural France.

### NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS ALIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The activities and learning ideas in this guide have been correlated with the **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**: <https://bit.ly/2kx58A2>.

This title most closely relates to the following standard: **Students can make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change. (3-LS4-4)**





## Before Reading

### Why did the chicken cross the road?:

Ask students to raise their hands if they've ever heard a "Why did the chicken cross the road?" joke. Invite volunteers to share some of their silliest answers to the question. Then say that each day, many animals really do cross roads for a variety of reasons.

Ask students to share some of the reasons animals might cross roads. Write responses on the board. Answers should include:

- To find food
- To escape predators
- To find mates
- To find a safe place to rest, lay eggs, or have babies

Tell students that sometimes, animals cross roads simply because the roads were built in their habitats and they don't know that they shouldn't cross them. Unfortunately, many animals are hurt or killed trying to cross roads.

Explain that in this book, students will read about how people are helping reptiles and amphibians safely cross roads.

## During Reading

**Check for Understanding:** Ask students the following questions as they read:

- **pp. 6-7:** Why do snapping turtles cross roads? (*They cross roads to find a dry place to lay their eggs, then cross back after the eggs hatch to find a wet place to live.*)
- **pp. 8-11:** What did Carolyn Hill notice about snapping turtles in Blauvelt, New York? (*Many of them were getting hit by cars while trying to cross Western Highway.*)
- **pp. 12-19:** What are some things Carolyn, her group, and the local government did to help the turtles? (*Stood in the road to stop traffic when they saw turtles crossing; put up cones and signs so drivers would slow down; carried hatchlings across the road; built nesting mounds near the reservoir; built a fence*)
- **pp. 20-25:** What are some other ways people have helped reptiles and amphibians cross roads? (*People in France put up a fence along the road, then buried buckets along the fence to catch frogs and salamanders and carry them across the road. People in Japan, England, Wales, Massachusetts, and California built tunnels under train tracks and busy roads.*)



## After Reading/Activity Introduction

Ask students to think about some of the things they can do to help animals in their neighborhood or city safely cross roads. Invite them to share their ideas with the class and write some of their responses on the board. Add any ideas that the students didn't think of. Answers could be as follows:

- They can watch out for wildlife while they're in a car and alert the driver if they see any animals near the road.
- They can hold up signs to alert other drivers that an animal is crossing.
- They can write to their local government officials to urge them to put up wildlife-crossing signs.
- They can make sure not to throw food or other trash onto or near roads so as not to attract animals.

## STUDENT ACTIVITY: Writing a Letter to a Local Government Official

Ask students to imagine they are Carolyn Hill. Have students write a letter to a Blauvelt, NY government official to convince them to put up turtle crossing signs along Western Highway. The letter should be one to three paragraphs long (depending on the grade level) and include the following information:

- Why the turtles cross Western Highway
- What happens to many of the turtles when they try to cross the highway
- How the signs would safely help the turtles cross the highway

Alternatively, students can write a letter on behalf of a different animal in their own neighborhood to help that animal safely cross the road. When they're finished with their letters, students can design and color a wildlife-crossing sign for the animal they wrote about.





## ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Turtles of Western Highway’s Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/wh turtles>
- **Turtle Conservancy:** <https://www.turtleconservancy.org/>
- **SAVE THE FROGS!:** <https://savethefrogs.com/>

## VIDEOS

- **Turtles of Western Highway Overview:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBonI6eRZs8>
- **Amphibian Migration (NJ Department of Environmental Protection):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqJ6IiTJCzQ>
- **How to Help a Snapping Turtle Cross the Road (Toronto Zoo):** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgd\\_B6iKPxU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgd_B6iKPxU)

Editor’s Note: The following errors appear in the first printing of the book. We apologize for these. E-book editions are correct.

**p. 21:** The map has “Beauvarden” spelled with an extra **a**. The correct spelling is “Beuvarde”.

**p. 27, Learn More in the Library:** The first book is called *A Kids’ Guide to Helping Endangered Creatures*. The second book is called *Little Kids First Big Book of Reptiles and Amphibians*.