

“CARAPACE RACE”

A game about sea turtles

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This large scale, floor-based game of chance is based on the life cycle of a female sea turtle. Designed for use in schools, ecology or recuperation centres, zoos, aquaria, and pop-up environment days/events, MEDASSET (The Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles) has been using the Greek language edition of CARAPACE RACE in its educational outreach work since 2019. It is currently available in three languages (English, Greek, and Albanian) but it is possible to add others.



The game can be played by between 2 and 4 players, guided and encouraged by an adult Leader. In MEDASSET’s experience it works well when a small group takes charge of each of the four ‘player-turtles’ and plays as a team. CARAPACE RACE has proved popular with young people between the ages of 6 and 12. The size of the playing mat is 2m x 2.5m.

The four player-turtles start off as hatchlings emerging on a beach and make their way through their eventful lives until, fully grown, they return to lay their own eggs. Along the way, they collect ‘eggs’ when finding food or a mate, but may lose them if they become entangled in a fishing net or encounter a threat such as lights behind the beach, a marauding seagull, ghost crab or shark, or even get injured in a boat strike. The winner is the turtle that has collected the highest number of ‘eggs’ when she arrives at the nesting beach.

42 Chance Cards give more information than is carried by the events illustrated on the playing mat, (see top image, above) and the cards also offer the players opportunities to think strategically – for example moving a threat ahead of an opponent or using the card to free an entangled turtle from a net.

Young players seem to very much enjoy handling the 3D characters... turtles, hermit crab, jellyfish, seagull, shark, octopus, squid, ghost crab, not forgetting the ping-pong ball ‘eggs’ and the fishing nets!

To find out more about options for including CARAPACE RACE in your public engagement work, kindly contact:

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