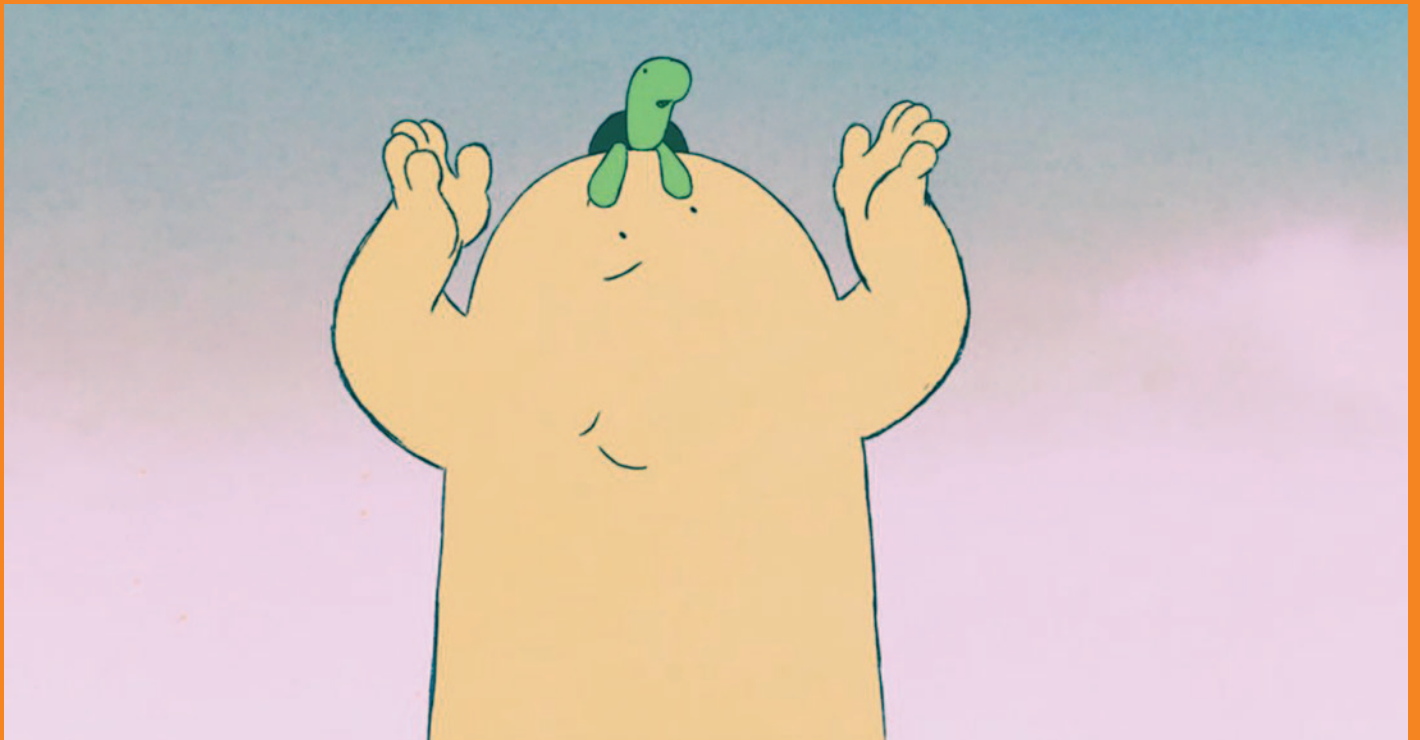


DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Scotland's International Film Festival
for Young Audiences



Teachers' Resource Pack: **When the Tide Comes**

First and Second Level Learners | Created by Sarah Sturrock

Discovery Film Festival | Mon 2 – Wed 18 November 2026

DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts

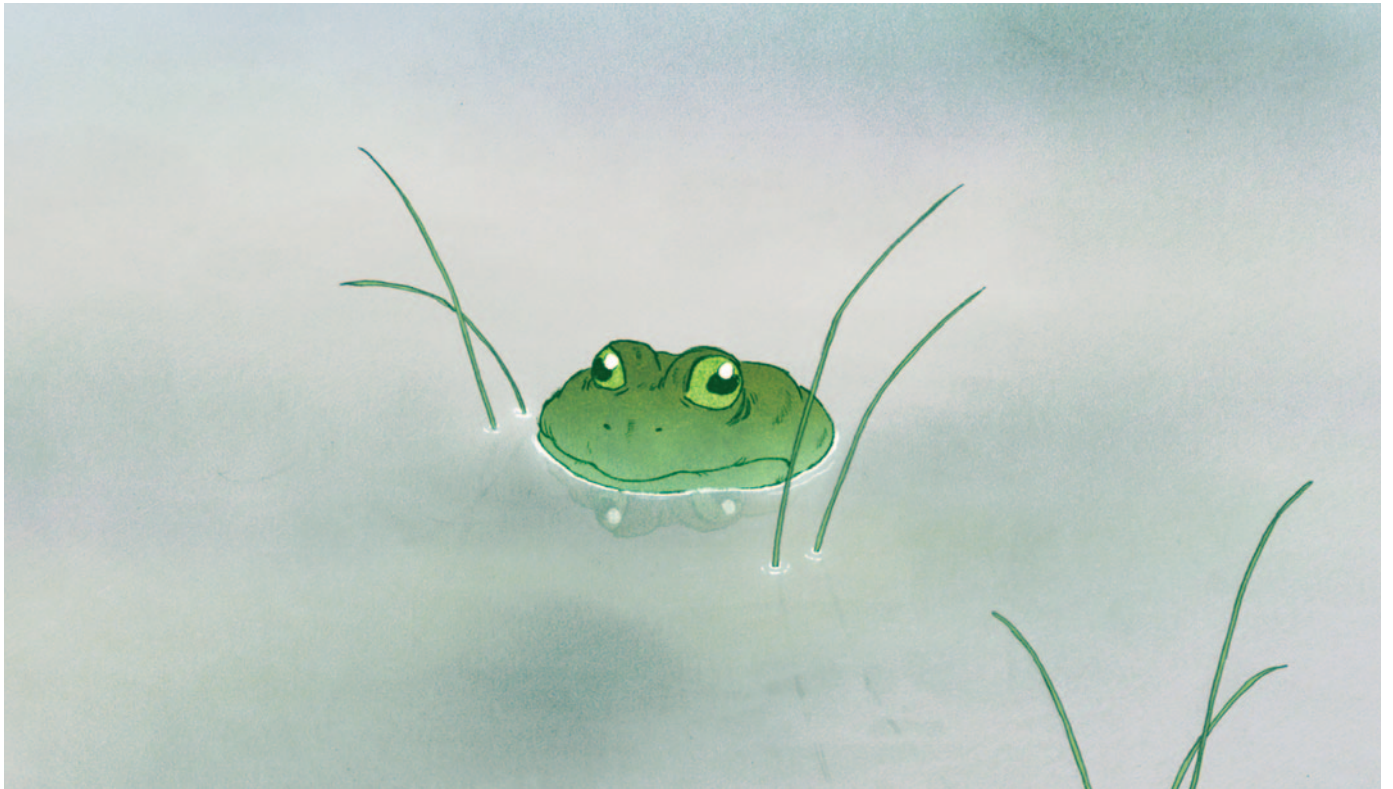
DUNDEE
ONE CITY, MANY DISCOVERIES



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

dca.org.uk/discovery-film-festival

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With support from the DCA Cinema and Learning teams



Introduction

Discovery Learning Resources give you exciting classroom activities to enhance Curriculum for Excellence delivery.

They are created by classroom teachers and education professionals.

Each resource aims to:

- support and extend working with film in the classroom
- help prepare teachers for a class visit to a Discovery Film Festival film and to extend the impact of that visit for delivery of CfE
- develop confidence in Moving Image Education approaches and working with 21st Century Literacy/moving image texts

Each resource is free and available to download from:

<https://www.dca.org.uk/discovery-film-festival-resources/>

When the Tide Comes

Dir: Fêt-Nat Bailly

United Kingdom 2025 / 10mins



When the Tide Comes

Synopsis:

Within the dunes, a sand creature and a baby sea turtle meet by a sudden turn of events. Together they will journey to the ocean where they will both learn what it is to be a part of their world.

On a quiet summer morning, an old sand creature named Sandy is enjoying the peace of the endless dunes he calls home. That peace doesn't last long though, as a noisy flock of seagulls drops its lunch right on Sandy's lap: a helpless baby sea turtle named Bo. At first, Sandy isn't thrilled about the unexpected company, but soon he and Bo set off on a journey to get the little turtle back to the ocean. On the way, they will learn not only from each other, but from the wild creatures they start to interact with.

Advisory note:

This film has no content warnings.

Teacher's notes:

Age and stage recommendations, including CfE objectives:

The film is suitable for ages 7 and above. This pack is aimed at First and Second Level learners. This film is recommended for Primary 3–5. The following CfE Experiences and Outcomes are covered in this pack:

Literacy and English: **LIT 1-07a / LIT 2-07a, LIT 1-10a / LIT 2-10a**

Expressive Arts: **EXA 1-02a / EXA 2-02a, EXA 1-03a / EXA 2-03a, EXA 1-05a / EXA 2-05a**

Health and Wellbeing: **HWB 1-01a / HWB 2-01a, HWB 1-05a / HWB 2-05ab**

Sciences: **SCN 1-01a / SCN 2-01a, SCN 1-20a / SCN 2-20a**

Social Studies: **SOC 1-08a / SOC 2-08a**

Teacher quote:

I believe film is one of the most powerful resources we can use in the classroom. It provides a shared experience that inspires discussion, creativity and curiosity while allowing learners to explore complex themes in an accessible way. *When the Tide Comes* beautifully demonstrates how storytelling can nurture empathy, celebrate friendship and encourage children to think about their relationship with the natural world. For me, film is far more than entertainment – it is a catalyst for meaningful learning across the curriculum.



Before watching the film:

Activity 1: **What Story Does the Poster Tell?** **(Literacy – Film & Expressive Arts)**

Before watching the film, look closely at the film poster (**Appendix 1**)
Although it is simple, every detail has been carefully chosen by the filmmakers.

Work with a partner or small group. What can you see?

List everything you notice. Think about:

- Colours
- The setting
- The characters
- The title
- The style of the artwork

Come back as a whole class and share. Then, possibly with different partners/small groups, discuss the next set of questions. Use evidence from the poster to explain your ideas.

Why do you think the filmmakers chose:

- Dark blue colours?
- A handwritten title?
- Sand dunes instead of a beach?
- Two small characters?
- Lots of empty space?

Come back and share with the class. Then, in jotters, individually predict the story.
Use the following prompts to help:

- I think the characters are...
- I predict the journey will...
- I think the biggest challenge will be...
- I think the message of the film might be...



Activity 1: **What Story Does the Poster Tell?** (Literacy – Film & Expressive Arts)

Creative Challenge

Imagine you are creating a new poster for When the Tide Comes. Would you:

- Keep the same colours?
- Add more characters?
- Include the ocean?
- Show a different moment from the story?

You can use your predictions to help you create a piece of artwork to show your poster. Then, once you have seen the film you can compare the actual film poster and what happens in the film to your predictions. Second level learners can also discuss how accurately the poster represented the story in the film.

Activity 2: **The Power of Laughter (Health and Wellbeing)**

A turning point in the film occurs when Sandy hears Bo laugh. This joyful moment changes Sandy's feelings and marks the beginning of their friendship.

Discuss:

- Why do you think Bo's laughter changed Sandy's mind?
- How can laughter help people feel connected?
- Can a small act of kindness change someone's day?

Learners create a "Ripple of Kindness" on a piece of paper.

In the centre they write or draw one act of kindness. Around it, they show how that act could spread to others, just like ripples in the sea.

Extension (Second Level):

Role-play different situations where a smile, laugh or kind word helps someone who is feeling lonely or worried.

Activity 3: **What Do the Shadows Tell Us? (Film Literacy)**

One memorable scene shows Sandy and Bo's shadows cast onto the sand. Activity (whole class discussion with time to discuss in small groups). Show learners the still image. (**Appendix 2**).

Ask:

- What do you notice first?
- Why do you think the filmmaker chose to show the characters as shadows rather than showing them directly?
- What does the shadow help us understand about the scene?
- How does the lighting create a particular mood?

Discuss how filmmakers used the following to tell a story without words:

- Light
- Shadow
- Colour
- Camera angles
- Silence or music

Learners then complete individually:

- I think the filmmaker wanted us to feel...
- I know this because...

Extension: Create a shadow scene using torches, toys or classroom objects to explore how shadows can tell stories.





Activity 4: **Paint with the Tide (Expressive Arts – Art and Design)**

The final title screen uses soft colours, flowing lines and a peaceful coastal landscape to leave the audience with a lasting impression. The handwriting is the same as the poster and the colours are similar to the image of Bo diving down into the ocean. (**Appendix 3**)

Discuss:

- How do the colours make you feel?
- Why do you think the filmmakers ended with this image?
- Which colours remind you of the sea?

Using watercolours, chalks or pastels learners create their own coastal artwork inspired by the final scene.

Encourage them to experiment with:

- Blending colours
- Creating movement
- Different shades of blue and green
- Texture

Add a title for their artwork using flowing handwriting inspired by the film's title.

Activity 5: **Helping Sea Turtles Find Their Way (Science & Social Studies)**

Bo is a baby sea turtle trying to reach the ocean safely.

Investigate:

- How do baby sea turtles find the sea?
- What dangers do they face?
- How can people help protect coastal habitats?

Learners then design an information poster or leaflet called: *Helping Sea Turtles Stay Safe*.

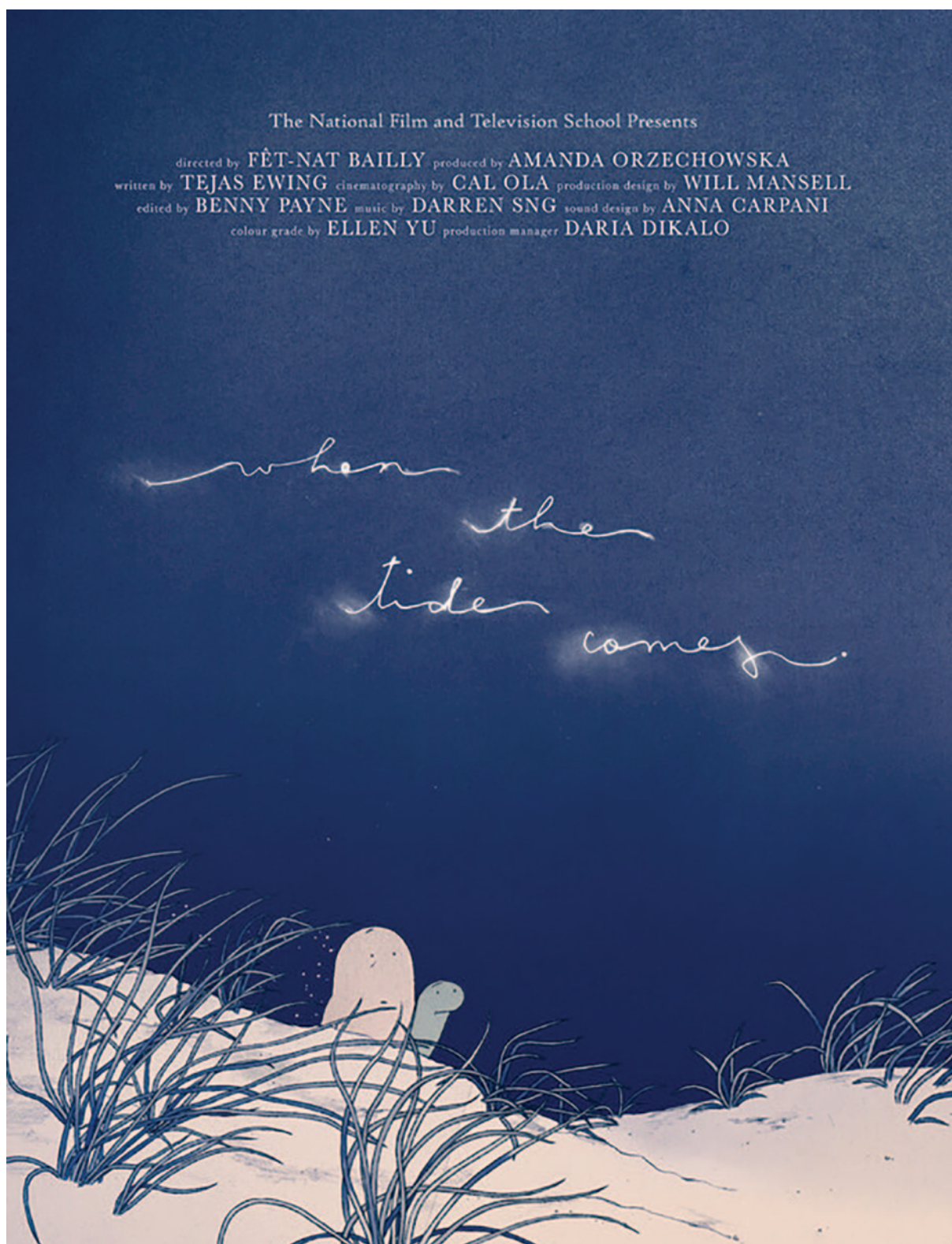
Include:

- Interesting facts
- Threats to sea turtles
- Ways we can protect beaches and oceans

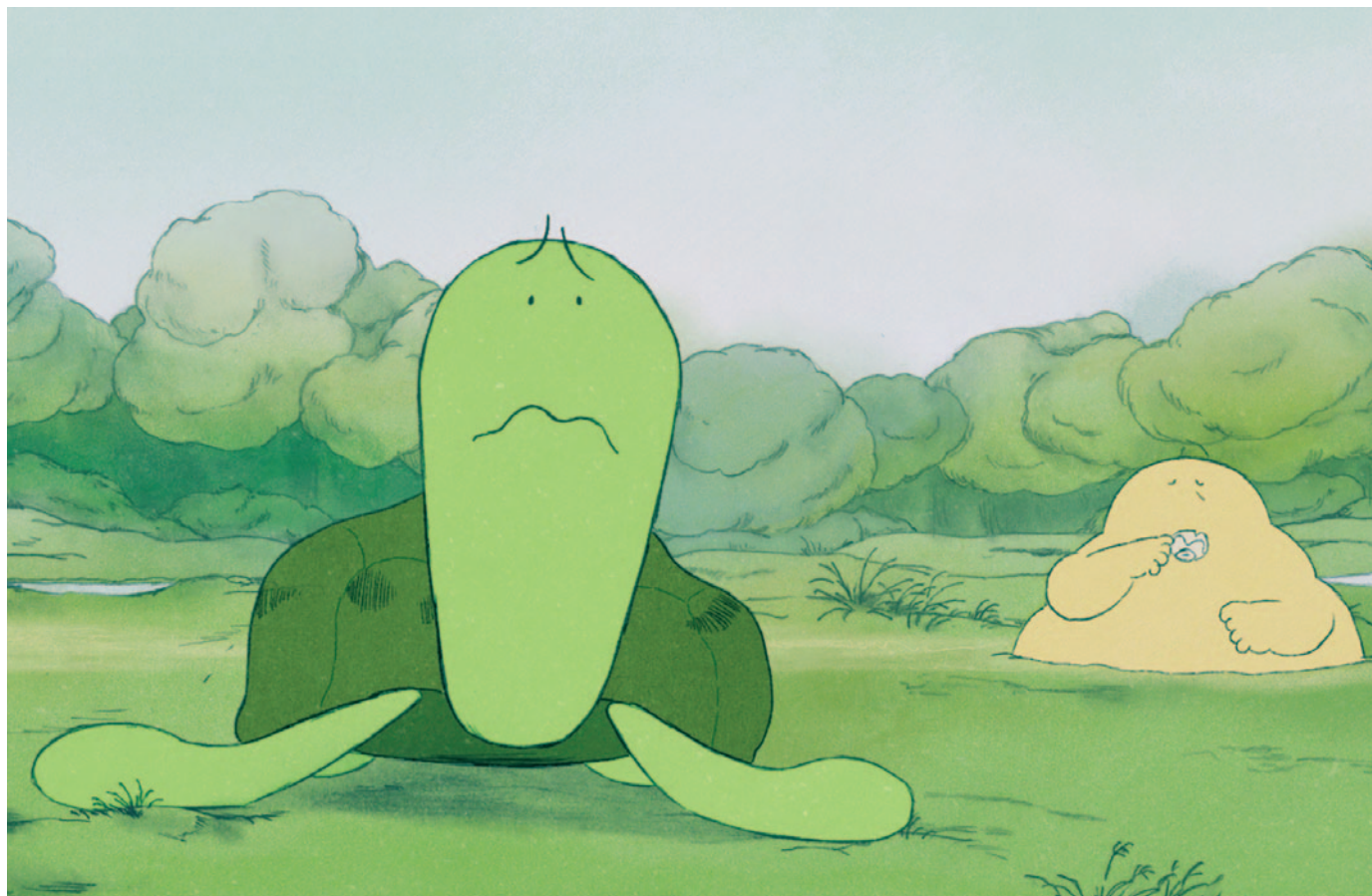
Extension (Second Level):

Research another endangered marine animal and compare its habitat and challenges with those of a sea turtle.

Appendix 1: Poster







Evaluating this resource

We hope that you found this resource useful and appropriate. Please do send us any film reviews, letters from your pupils, documentation of classwork and your feedback by e-mailing olivia.knight@dca.org.uk

Would you make a good Discovery Film Festival Case Study?

We are seeking a number of simple Case Studies in how teachers have used or are using Discovery films in the classroom across Curriculum for Excellence and across the Levels.

Any case studies that we develop would be intended for presentation on GLOW, the Creativity Portal and on Discovery Film Festival websites. We have a simple template to be completed and are keen to have classwork and documentation included. If you would like to be a Discovery Case Study please e-mail olivia.knight@dca.org.uk