



**CHAMPIONS  
OF THE  
WILD**

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WILD**

# GIANT SEA TURTLES

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**AS SEEN ON  
DISCOVERY  
AND  
ANIMAL  
PLANET**



VHS

C9198 147



A NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA RELEASE

# GIANT SEA TURTLES



"When I was young I liked people well enough, but I thought hey, let's get to where the turtles are!" – and that's exactly what Peter Pritchard did. Over the last 35 years, he has travelled the globe, learning as much as he can about sea turtles and working with local people to protect them.

It was in Guyana that Pritchard saw his first wild sea turtle. And it is to the small Arawak community of Moruka, in Guyana, that he returns every year to oversee a remarkable conservation program.

Pritchard first met his Guyanese neighbour, Audley James, on the beach with a group of turtle hunters one night. He recalls that, strangely enough, he and James liked each other and came to develop a set of protocols over turtle hunting and protection. Today, thanks to the work of James and Pritchard, turtle hunting in the community is rare, and a new generation is growing up with a healthy respect for some of the most marvellous creatures of the sea. The community has gone from one of turtle killers to one of devout conservationists.

Sea turtles have been on this earth since the time of the dinosaurs, 100 million years ago. They have lungs like us, but they can stay underwater for hours at a time, storing oxygen in their muscle tissue and slowly releasing it into their bloodstream. Over the course of a year, a sea turtle can criss-cross the ocean, swimming with an astounding elegance.

Turtle hatching is a wonderful, exuberant event. The beach is filled with hatchlings racing on a dangerous trip to the relative safety of the ocean. Some will make it, others won't. And the females that reach the sea swim off, not to return for 10 or 20 years, or perhaps even more. When they do return to lay their eggs, some encounter beaches filled with tourists, where all-terrain vehicles and motorbikes race across the sand. Others find the beach of their birth relatively unchanged – but that doesn't mean their eggs will be safe from predators, human and animal, seeking a tasty treat.



Champion:  
**Peter Pritchard**

**Champions of the Wild** takes you around the globe with stories of remarkable endangered species and the dedicated champions determined to save them. Buy the whole collection!

## Pre-Viewing Questions

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1. How long do you think a turtle can stay underwater before coming up for air?
2. What dangers do you think nesting turtles and young hatchlings face?
3. Why have people killed sea turtles over the years?

## Post-Viewing Questions

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1. How does a turtle manage to go so long without breathing?
2. What are some key factors in the success of Peter Pritchard's Moruka Conservation Program?
3. What are some of the threats sea turtles face today? Is there anything we can do to protect turtles from these threats?
4. Discuss Peter Pritchard's major principle of conservation: "People are always the problem, and people are always the solution. And it may be the same people in some cases who are the solution to the problem."

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## **World Wide Web Sites**

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*Please note that addresses on the Web can change unexpectedly.*

A superb, award-winning site with excellent educational materials for kids, as well as a wealth of information for more advanced students:

**www.turtles.org**

An extremely rich resource, this page also houses the Sea Turtle Satellite Tracking Program mentioned in the video:

**ccturtle.org**

## **Related National Film Board Productions**

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The story of the painted turtle, a sturdy and remarkable creature found throughout North America.

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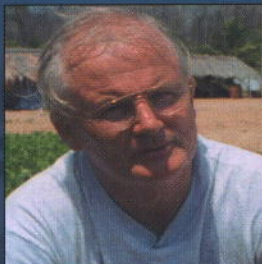
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## GIANT SEA TURTLES



For 100 million years, they have cruised the seas, travelling astounding distances every year. Today every single species of sea turtle is either threatened or endangered.

Peter Pritchard saw his first sea turtle in an Irish aquarium, and he immediately fell in love. Over the past 35 years, he has seen every species of turtle in the sea and has travelled the globe to study these intriguing reptiles.

When it comes to conservation, Pritchard firmly believes that “people are always the problem, and people are always the solution.” He has worked with Audley James and other members of the indigenous Arawak community in Moruka, Guyana, to ensure that young people grow up to love and respect turtles – and that the days when turtles were slaughtered for meat are gone forever. Today, on the beaches of Guyana, turtles are more likely to be tagged than killed.

With breathtaking underwater photography, Giant Sea Turtles offers a unique picture of some of the world's most mysterious creatures.

Endangered animals – and the champions who have dedicated their lives to saving them – feature in this spectacular series of half-hour videos! Filmed around the world, from the frozen fields of Canada's North to the jungles of Borneo, **Champions of the Wild** combines natural history with personal drama.

Director: **Gary Marcuse**

Producer: **Christian Bruyère**

Executive Producer: **Michael Chechik**

**25 minutes, 30 seconds**

Order number: **C9198 147**

**The Champions of the Wild Collection:** Series order number: **193C 9199 098**

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