Unit 3: Aquaculture

Lesson 5: Into the Deep- Exploring Turtles

Directions: Access the commodities and products tab on the AgMRC website (http://www.agmrc.org) and find the link to Aquaculture. Utilize information located here to answer the questions below.

1. Why was interstate commerce in pet turtle hatchlings ceased in 1971? What other events followed this movement shortly afterward?

2. Why has pet turtle hatchling production declined in Louisiana over the past several years? What implications do you think this has had for producers and consumers?

3. Where is the hatchling turtle industry currently concentrated? What environmental conditions allow these areas to be optimal spots for turtle production?

4. What are the largest barriers to expansion into the turtle production industry? What advice would you give to an individual who would like to begin producing turtles?

5. Why are “alternative to antibiotics... being used in washing and vacuuming treatment of eggs”? What implications could these issues hold in terms of disease control and prevention in turtles and humans?
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Almanac/Encyclopedia Activity:

Grab an encyclopedia or almanac and begin flipping through random pages. Within one minute, your goal is to find one word or reference that relates to turtle production. You will then write a brief paragraph explaining how they relate.

Example: If the topic is swine production, I flipped through and found an article titled “A John Waters Christmas”. How does that relate to swine production? Well, Christmas is a popular holiday that is often celebrated by eating a Christmas ham. Ham is a cut of pork meat taken from the hind leg of the animal.

The idea is to be creative and use your knowledge of turtle production to connect to something that is seemingly distantly related.