

What Tilly The Turtle Taught Me About My Relationship With Nature

Once upon a time, I was camping with my family, and I got up early in the morning to take a kayak ride, but that morning took a big turn when I met Tilly. I was going through Sucker Creek and saw a painted turtle, but that wasn't even the strangest part. The turtle started talking to me!

"Hi, I'm Tilly, and I'm a painted turtle. How is your relationship with nature?" I said, "I honestly don't think about it that much." Tilly replied, "This is important, and our relationships with nature should be taken very seriously." So I thought about it, and I realized something very important. I said, "I depend on the natural world." "That's right," said Tilly. "We all depend on the world around us. Here I'll tell you what I depend on. We turtles need marshes, ponds, shallow bays of lakes, backwaters of rivers, etc. We eat algae and small water creatures. One very important thing about us, painted turtles, is that we are native to North America, and invasive animals are not helping. Invasive species are killing turtles, and our population is decreasing. Now that I told you about what I depend on, you need to tell me how you depend on nature."

I said, in lots of ways: food, shelter, clothes, etc. I need animals to eat, cotton for clothes, wood and rocks for shelter, and those are all things I depend on. I don't just depend on nature, but I also depend on the things living in nature. Those living things depend on us, too!"

In conclusion, Tilly taught me so much about my relationship with nature. She told me all about the different ways we depend on nature and each other.