

Turtles



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What's the gist?

- Turtles are egg-laying reptiles that have an upper shell called a carapace and a lower shell called a plastron, that will help protect them.
- Turtles come in many shapes, sizes, and colors, and they are found in diverse habitats.
- Pond sliders make up the largest family of turtles belonging to the family Emydidae.
- They can be found basking on logs and rocks in the water.
- They get the name “slider” because they will quickly move by sliding into the water from their basking sites when they feel threatened.
- The three species of pond sliders are the red-eared, yellow-bellied, and the Cumberland slider.
- They inhabit ponds, lakes, and rivers. Pond sliders are native to the south-central and southeastern United States and northern Mexico.
- They range in size from 3 inches to about 12 inches.
- Their diets vary depending on their species and age. Juveniles will eat mainly insects, tadpoles, snails, and crustaceans.
- Sliders consume mostly plants as adults.
- They have a life span of 20-50 years.

Picture It!

Check out these pictures of Crawfish and their habitat!



Learning Links

Take a look at these materials to further your experience!

Read a story, Listen to a story, Take a tour here: <https://bit.ly/30v3yAQ>

Red Eared Slider Turtle Facts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nanDMcF92u0>

Yellow-Bellied Pond Slider:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLy-amRKcWM>

Find out information about the different species of pond turtles:

<http://www.nauti-lasscritters.com/pond-turtles222.html>

Biokids Inquiry of Diverse Species: Pond Sliders:

http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Trachemys_scripta/

Activity Corner

Check out these awesome activities for an enriching learning experience!

Red-eared Pond Slider Turtle coloring sheet:

<http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/red-eared-slider-turtle>

Turtle Word Search:

<https://www.kidzone.ws/t.asp?b=m&t=https://www.kidzone.ws/animal-facts/turtles/images/b-word-search-hard-upper.gif>

Turtle Crafts for Kids:

<https://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/reptiles-turtles.htm>