

# Eastern Painted Turtle



GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  

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ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# EASTERN PAINTED TURTLE

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ up to 9 inches long with a flat shell
- ◆ top of the (carapace) is brown with red markings along the edges; bottom of shell (plastron) is yellow
- ◆ head has yellow and red markings



## Where to Look

Eastern Painted Turtles live in lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and marshes. They are often seen basking in the sun on logs and rocks.

## What It Eats.

Turtles eat aquatic plants, insects, worms, frogs and algae.



## Life Cycle

Reproduction in Painted Turtles begins with a courtship dance performed by the male to attract a female. Painted turtles lay 6-18 white leathery eggs which are buried on land. When the young hatch out they are on their own.

## Who Eats It?

Painted turtles are eaten by racoons, red fox, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle and the Common Snapping Turtle, snakes and larger catfish and largemouth bass.



## Did You Know...

The Eastern Painted Turtle basks in the sun to warm up because they are cold-blooded. The sun also helps get rid of parasites like leaches.

## Role in the Ecosystem

Painted Turtles are an important part of the aquatic food chain.