

School-to-Nature

Painted Turtle



- This turtle is named for its colorful yellow, orange, and red striped markings on neck, tail, and bottom shell.
- Female Painted Turtles may reach 4-10 inches, and males, 3-6 inches, in the wild. The average life span is 20 years; some live 35-40 years.
- They eat plants, insects, fish, and sometimes small mammals, dead or alive. They are hunted and eaten by raccoons, skunks, opossums, great blue herons, crows, garter snakes, squirrels, foxes, and larger birds of prey such as eagles and hawks.
- They spend winter buried in the mud on the bottom of swamps, ponds and streams.
- NEVER hold a turtle for very long by its top shell only; support the underbody as well to avoid badly injuring it. Never squeeze a turtle.
- Look for turtles along the river edge or near deep ponds. On Conservancy lands, turtles are found at Trout Ponds Prairie.