

Box Turtle

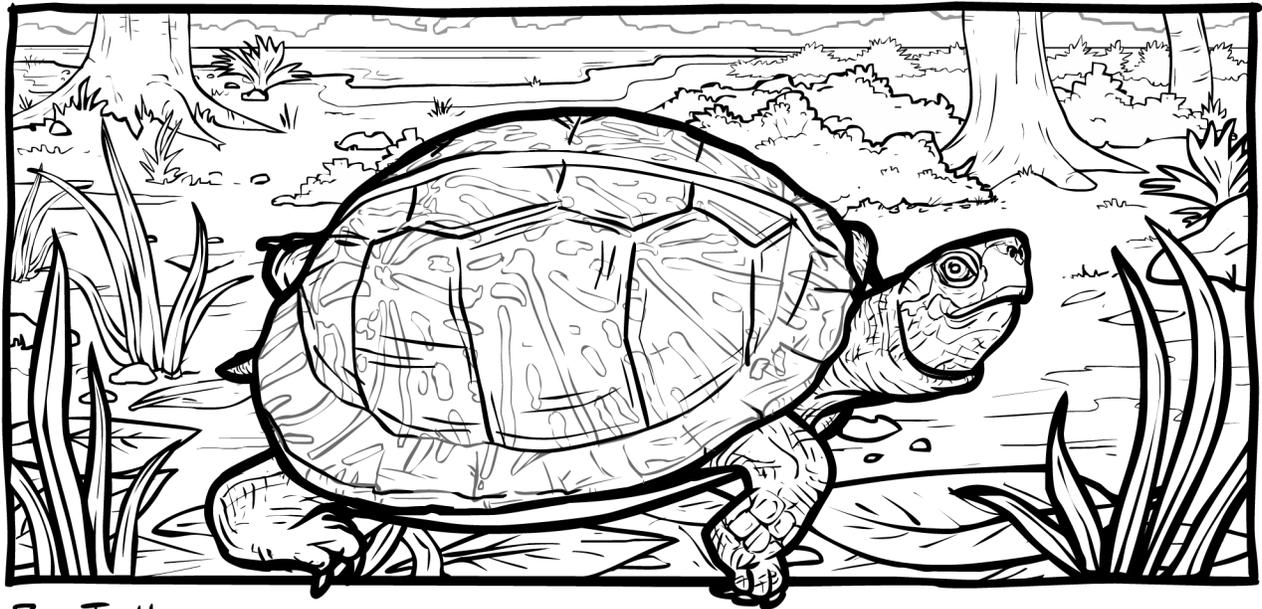
Box Turtle *(Terrapene carolina)*

Instant ID

- A small turtle with a high-domed, rounded carapace (top of shell)
- Range from four to seven inches in length
- Florida box turtles have a bright yellow lines on their dark brown shell
- Gulf coast box turtles often have light or no markings
- Have a slightly hooked upper jaw and partially webbed toes

Native Niches

- Two of the four North American subspecies are commonly found in Florida
- The Florida box turtle lives on the peninsula
- The gulf coast box turtle lives in the panhandle
- Found near streams or ponds in marshes, pastures, and open woodlands



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Favorite Foods

- Omnivorous (eats both plants and animals) and feed on a variety of food, including fruit, flowers, fungi, fish, frogs, and worms
- Young turtles mainly eat animal matter while adults primarily eat plants

Critter Characteristics

- Famous for their hinged shells, which allows them to retract almost completely to hide
- Their shell can regenerate during their lifespan of over 100 years

Population Protection

- Habitat loss and fragmentation as well as the pet trade have caused population decline
- Protecting terrestrial (land) and wetland habitats supports box turtle populations

