Red-Eared Slider

*(Trachemys scripta elegans)*

**Instant ID**
- Aquatic (freshwater) turtles with a flattened shell and overall green coloring
- Distinctive red stripe on each side of the head
- Males have longer nails on the front feet
- Females are larger and grow to 11 1/2 inches
- Yellow patterning on skin and plastron (bottom of shell)

**Hijacked Habitats**
- Native to the Mississippi River Valley
- Widely introduced to many areas through pet trade
- Will live in nearly any body of fresh water
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Favorite Foods
- Omnivore (eats both plants and animals)
- Eats tadpoles, snails and fish

Critter Characteristics
- Older males become darker as they age
- Can outnumber native turtles in certain areas
- Yellow-bellied sliders are a different subspecies and are native to north Florida

Population Prevention
- Laws now exist to control the sale and possession of red-eared sliders in the state
- Never release pets into the wild