



Red-eared Slider

# Red-Eared Slider

*(Trachemys scripta elegans)*

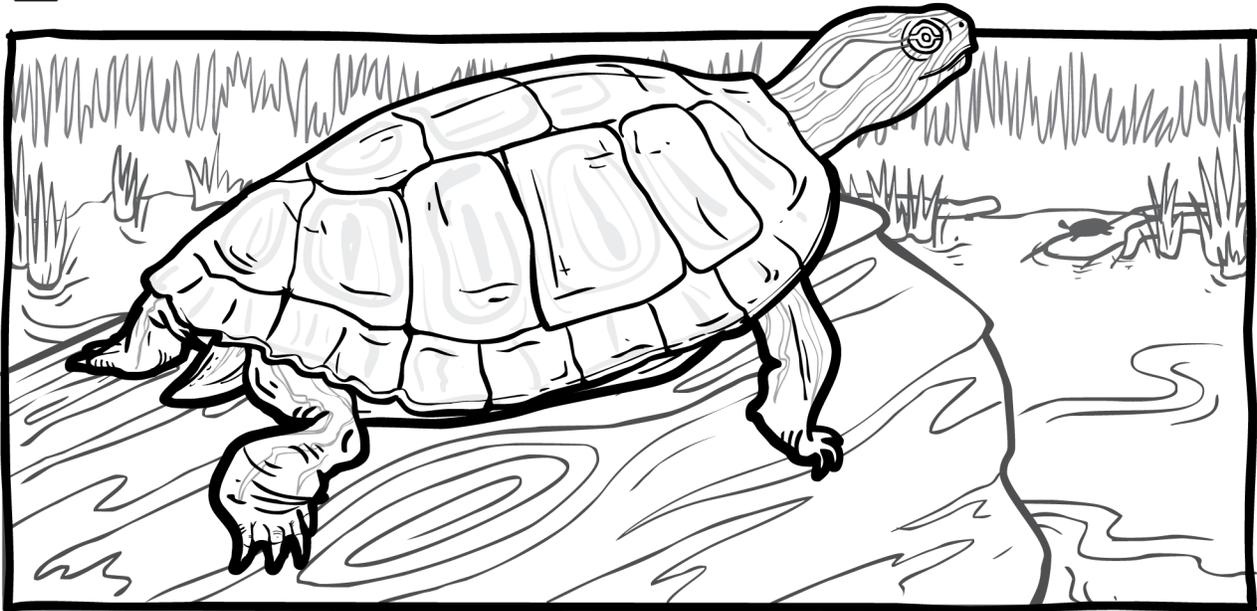
## Instant ID

- 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

