

Terrific Box Turtles

A virtual lesson to enjoy at home.

Read Aloud!

Meet the Eastern Box Turtle! Eastern Box Turtles live in meadows, forests, and near ponds. When in danger, they pull their head and legs into their rounded shell to stay safe. A box turtle's shell is covered in yellow and brown scales, called scutes. In the winter, box turtles hibernate beneath the ground. This means they sleep until spring!



[Click here to sing a turtle song with Miss Jenny!](#)

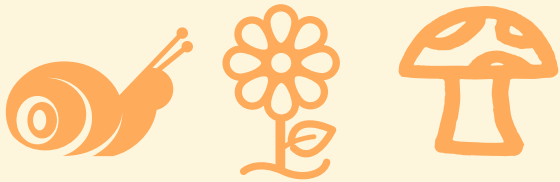
Box turtles are not picky eaters. They enjoy worms, crickets, leafy greens, fruit, grubs, roots, and eggs. In fact, they'll eat almost anything they can fit in their mouths! Box turtles are also homebodies. They stay close to where they were born. If you find a box turtle, do not try to pick it up or move it! Box turtles can bite.



LOOK FOR BOX TURTLES AT ADKINS ARBORETUM ALONG THE WOODLAND EDGE. ONE BOX TURTLE HAS BEEN SPOTTED SEVERAL TIMES UNDER THE MULBERRY TREE THAT GROWS NEAR THE PAVILION!

Take It Outside!

See if you can find things that turtles like to eat in your backyard or a nearby park. Turtle snacks include fruit, flowers, insects, worms, snails, and mushrooms. If possible, arrange some of the items that you find in a pile on the ground. A hungry turtle may thank you! Be sure to wash your hands afterwards.



Snack Time!

Halve a green apple to make your turtle's shell. Stick on raisin or fruit leather scutes. Add pretzel rods for the turtle's legs and tail. A grape or peanut in the shell makes a nice turtle head!



Created by Jenny Houghton for

ADKINS ARBORETUM

Make It!

Make a paper bowl box turtle! Glue a paper bowl upside down on a sheet of cardboard or heavy paper. This is your turtle's shell. Tear pieces of brown and yellow tissue or construction paper "scutes" and glue them all over the shell. Cut out four brown construction paper legs, a head, and a little tail. Glue them on the paper around the shell. If your turtle is a girl, use a marker to color her eyes black. If he's a boy, color his eyes red. What will you name your turtle?!



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DID YOU KNOW? MOST BOX TURTLES LIVE TO BE ABOUT 50 YEARS OLD, BUT SOME HAVE LIVED TO BE OVER 100!