

# Meet The Turtles

Grade 1 – Science and Technology



## Lesson Details

<b>Grade Level:</b>	1	<b>Curriculum Links:</b>	Science and Technology	<b>Time Needed:</b>	40 minutes
<b>Learning Goal</b>	To learn about the 8 different species of Ontario Turtles, their characteristics, habitat, and diet.				
<b>Success Criteria</b>	By the end of this lesson, students will understand various aspects of Ontario Turtles and be able to compare this to themselves and other animals.				
<b>Specific Expectations</b>	<p><i>Understanding Life Systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate and compare the basic needs of humans and other living things, including the need for air, water, food, warmth, and space, using a variety of methods and resources;</li> <li>Investigate and compare the physical characteristics of a variety of plants and animals, including humans;</li> <li>Identify environment as the area in which something or someone exists or lives;</li> <li>Identify what living things provide for other living things;</li> <li>Describe how the things plants and animals use to meet their needs are changed by their use and are returned to the environment in environment in different forms.</li> </ul>				
<b>Materials Needed</b>	Worksheet (attached), Pencil.				

## Lesson Description

<b>Overview</b>	After a discussion about what a turtle is, students will read about the 8 different Ontario Turtles and answer questions about their reading in the attached worksheet.
<b>Activity</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a group, discuss what a turtle is and ask the students what information they already know about turtles (E.g. habitat, diet, etc.).</li> <li>Hand out the attached worksheet and have the students read the information about turtles.</li> <li>The students will then complete the worksheet by answering the provided questions. This can be done either independently, in pairs, or small groups.</li> <li>End the lesson by asking each student to tell the class about something new they have just learned and found interesting.</li> <li>Optional: Invite a guest speaker from a local wildlife centre to visit the classroom and bring in turtles for the students to meet.</li> </ol>
<b>Background Information</b>	<p><b>Blanding’s Turtle:</b> Bright yellow neck, highly domed carapaces (upper shell), many irregular radiation dots (small and discrete) on their shells, large black symmetrically arranged scutes (triangular sections).</p> <p><b>Painted Turtle:</b> Red colouring underneath carapace and on neck, yellow stripes on face, smooth carapace, pale plastron (under-shell).</p> <p><b>Map Turtle:</b> Carapace is green to olive-brown with thin brown-yellow lines that are patterned and look like a “map” and is noted to have a thin ridge running along the centre from head to tail, small yellow spot is found behind its eyes.</p> <p><b>Spotted Turtle:</b> Black carapace that is sprinkled with a few larger yellow spots, spotting on head and limbs, both sides of the head are marked by large orange spots that look like ears.</p>

## Lesson Description

	<p><b>Snapping Turtle:</b> Rough brown-olive to dark green carapace, large thick legs and toes with sharp claws, very small plastron, pointed jaw-tooth, rough ridges on tail and carapace.</p> <p><b>Spiny Softshell Turtle:</b> Soft leathery speckled carapace, olive green to light frown yellow in colour, long pig-like snout/nose.</p> <p><b>Stinkpot Turtle:</b> Tipped protruding and tiny nose, high domed carapace, light olive to black in colour, their plastron is small and yellow-brown in colour.</p> <p><b>Wood Turtle:</b> Carapace has large sculpted scutes resembling irregular pyramids, the shell looks like “wood”, plastron is yellow with black spots, the skin of the neck and forearms are reddish brown to bright orange.</p>
<b>Blacklist Masters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worksheet (attached)</li> <li>• Video Link(s): <a href="#">Ontario Turtle Identification</a> and <a href="#">Turtle Life Cycle</a></li> <li>• For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/id-turtles/">https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/id-turtles/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Place-Based Learning</b>	Students are encouraged to explore a local wetland, or other natural area, to try to find a turtle – relating what they have just learned to real-world applications.
<b>Inquiry-Based Learning</b>	<p>Using <b>Open Inquiry</b>, the students will complete the attached worksheet – either independently or in small groups.</p> <p>Ask the students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a turtle? What information do you know about them?</li> <li>• Where can you find a turtle?</li> <li>• What does a turtle eat?</li> <li>• How does a turtle compare to a human? How about other animals?</li> </ul>
<b>Turtle Stories</b>	Visit a local museum or wildlife centre to learn more about your local turtles. Which of the Ontario turtles live in your area? Students are encouraged to share their experience, pictures, and worksheets on the Turtle Stories website, found here: <a href="https://www.turtlestories.ca/">https://www.turtlestories.ca/</a>
<b>Turtle Guardian Program Links</b>	In <b>Level 1</b> (Ontario Turtle Identification) of the <b>Turtle Guardian Program</b> , students will learn how to identify all 8 species of Ontario’s turtles, and gain information about their habitat and diet. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.turtleguardians.com/what-is-a-turtle-guardian/">https://www.turtleguardians.com/what-is-a-turtle-guardian/</a>

## My Notes

Fill in the blanks with the information you just learned about the 8 Ontario Turtles!

The Midland Painted Turtle has red stripes on its neck while the Western Painted Turtle does not.

Blanding's Turtles are always smiling ! They have a bright yellow neck and dark coloured head.

The Spiny Softshell Turtle has a long pig-like nose . Their shell is soft with dots on it.

The Map Turtle has a yellow spot behind its eyes. Their shell looks like it has a map on it.

Word Bank:

Spot

Smiling

Red Stripes

Yellow

Nose

Map

**Answer the following questions about the 8 Ontario Turtles you just learned about.**

**Question 1. During the cool weather of springtime, what can you find the Spotted turtle doing?**

The Spotted Turtle can be found basking (laying in the sun).

**Question 2. The Wood Turtle is a good climber, where does it spend most of it's time? In the water or on land?**

The Wood Turtle spends most of its time on land.

**Question 3. What does the Musk Turtle like to eat? The Musk turtle likes to eat aquatic insects, crayfish, tadpoles, and snails.**

**Question 4. Why can't the Snapping Turtle pull its arms and legs into its shell?**

The Snapping Turtle has a small belly (under-shell).

**Question 5. What is something interesting that you learned about one of the Ontario Turtles?**

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**Question 6. What is something that a turtle does that you also like to do?**

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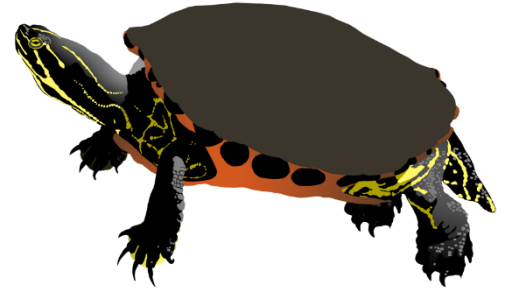


# Meet The Turtles

Read about the 8 different turtles that are native to Ontario and answer the following questions to test your knowledge.

## Painted Turtle

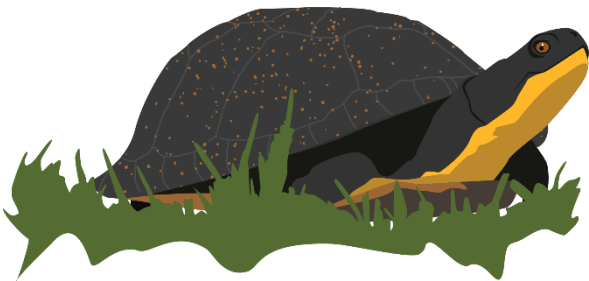
There are two types of Painted Turtles in Ontario; the Midland Painted Turtle and the Western Painted Turtle. Midland Painted Turtles have red stripes on their neck, while Western Painted Turtles do not.



The Painted Turtle is a small and fast turtle. They have a smooth, dark coloured shell and a yellow belly.

They can live in many places – wetlands, ponds, rivers, and streams. They enjoy basking (laying) on rocks and logs to warm up under the sun.

They eat insects, snails, and tadpoles.



## Blanding's Turtle

Blanding's Turtles are always smiling! They have a bright yellow neck and dark coloured head. They also have a dark shell with many small dots on it.

The Blanding's Turtle likes to live in ponds, marshes, and creeks with soft bottoms.

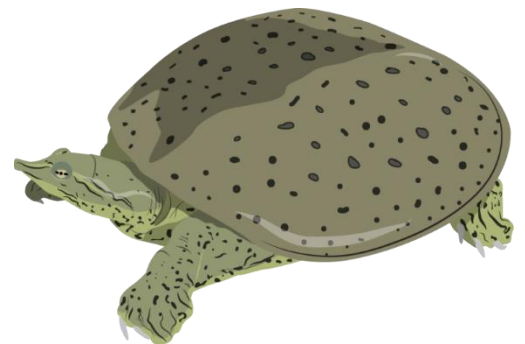
They eat fish, frogs, berries, crayfish, plants, and dead animals.

## Spiny Softshell Turtle

The Spiny Softshell Turtle has a soft leathery olive-green coloured shell with dots on it and a long pig-like nose.

They can be found in muddy rivers and at the bottom of a bay.

They eat snails, crayfish, and aquatic insects.





## Map Turtle



The Map Turtle has an olive-brown coloured shell with thin brown-yellow coloured lines that are pattered and look like a “map”. They also have a small yellow spot found behind its eyes.

They like slow moving rivers, large ponds, and lakes with muddy bottoms and lots of plants.

The Map Turtle eats clams, snails, crayfish, molluscs, plants, and fish.

## Spotted Turtle

The Spotted Turtle is small. They have a black shell that is covered in yellow spots. These yellow spots are also on the Spotted Turtles head and arms and legs. There are two large spots on the side of its head that look like ears.



They like shallow ditches filled with water, rivers, pools with mucky bottoms. The Spotted Turtle can be found basking (laying) in cool weather during the spring.

They eat small fish, berries, frogs, and dead plants at the bottom of water.

## Wood Turtle



The Wood Turtle has a shell that looks like wood! The different sections of the shell are slightly raised to look rough in texture. They have a yellow belly with black spots on it.

They live in cool streams near forests, swamps, and marshy meadows. They are also good climbers and spend most of their time on land.

They eat worms, slugs, insects, wild fruit, mushrooms, and plants.



## Stinkpot (Musk) Turtle

The Musk Turtle is Ontario's smallest turtle – smaller than your hand! And they make a bad smell when you pick it up.

They have a tiny nose and an olive to black coloured shell. Their belly is yellow brown in colour.

The Musk Turtle lives mostly in the water. They can be found in shallow bays, ponds, marshes, and streams.

They eat aquatic insects, crayfish, tadpoles, and snails.



## Snapping Turtle

Did you know that the Snapping turtle lived at the same time as the dinosaurs? They are considered a living dinosaur!

Even though they have the word snapping in their name, their mouth can't even break a large carrot in half.

They have a rough shell that is brown to dark green in colour. They also have large arms and legs with sharp claws. They are the only turtle with a very small belly (under-shell) so they are not able to pull their arms and legs inside their shell to hide.

Snapping Turtles live in many places – lakes, ponds, and marshes.

They eat dead fish and amphibians, as well as live fish, snails, and mussels.





Fill in the blanks with the information you just learned about the 8 Ontario Turtles!

The Midland Painted Turtle has \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on its neck while the Western Painted Turtle does not.

Blanding's Turtles are always \_\_\_\_\_ ! They have a bight \_\_\_\_\_ neck and dark coloured head.

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