



Have you ever seen a turtle with spots? If yes, you've probably met a spotted turtle! These cute little creatures are small, with their shell (or 'carapace') usually only reaching 4 to 6 inches in length. Their shells are dark, almost black, and decorated with bright yellow or orange spots that make them easy to recognize. And you know what's even more interesting? No two spotted turtles have the same pattern of spots!



Now that you're familiar with their looks, let's dive into where these unique turtles call home. Spotted turtles inhabit a wide range of habitats across North America, from southern Ontario in Canada down to Florida in the United States. They love hanging out in wet areas like marshes, swamps, and even in the shallow parts of lakes and streams. But they're also known to wander on land, especially when they're looking for a mate or a place to lay their eggs.

Speaking of eggs, let's hatch some knowledge about the spotted turtle's life cycle. Like other turtles, spotted turtles lay eggs that hatch into tiny turtles, but they lay fewer eggs than most other turtle species, usually only three to five at a time. The eggs develop and hatch over the summer, and the baby turtles grow into adults over a period of several years. Spotted turtles can live a long time, often up to 50 years or more!



Now, let's shell-ebrate some cool facts about our spotty friends and their relationship with humans and other animals. They are known to be friendly and even curious about humans, but sadly, their numbers are declining due to habitat loss and being captured for the pet trade. As for other animals, spotted turtles are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals like insects, worms, and small fish. Finally, their colorful spots aren't just for show, they also serve as a warning to predators that these turtles are not to be messed with. So, that's our spotted turtle — a truly unique and fascinating creature!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Are spotted turtles friendly towards humans?
 - A. No, they are scared of humans
 - B. Yes, they are known to be friendly
 - C. They never interact with humans
 - D. No, they are always aggressive

- 2) What parts of a spotted turtle are usually decorated with bright yellow or orange spots?
 - A. Their shell (or 'carapace')
 - B. Their belly
 - C. Their heads and limbs
 - D. Their eyes

- 3) Where do spotted turtles live?
 - A. North America
 - B. South America
 - C. Asia
 - D. Africa

- 4) How long can spotted turtles live?
 - A. Up to 20 years
 - B. Up to 30 years
 - C. Up to 10 years
 - D. Up to 50 years or more

- 5) What type of areas do spotted turtles prefer?
 - A. Cold areas
 - B. Dry areas
 - C. Wet areas
 - D. High mountain areas

- 6) What color are the spots on a spotted turtle's shell?
 - A. Deep blue
 - B. Dull gray
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 - A. Six to eight
 - B. Nine to eleven
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 - D. One to two

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 - A. When they want to play
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- 9) What kind of diet do spotted turtles have?
 - A. They are insectivores
 - B. They are carnivores
 - C. They are omnivores
 - D. They are herbivores

- 10) What is a reason the number of spotted turtles declining?
 - A. Habitat loss
 - B. Disease
 - C. Overpopulation
 - D. Lack of predators

- 11) What is the usual length of a spotted turtle's shell?
 - A. 1 to 2 feet
 - B. 10 to 12 inches
 - C. 1 to 3 inches
 - D. 4 to 6 inches

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).



- 12) "We are quite afraid of humans and tend to stay away."
- 13) "In the wild, I normally hang around marshes, swamps, lakes, and streams."
- 14) "We spotted turtles only live for few years, just a decade or so."
- 15) "Dry desert is my favorite place, you'll never find me in wet areas."
- 16) "It takes me several years to grow up into an adult, and once I reach that point, I can live up to 50 years or more!"
- 17) "Our shells are dark but we don't have any spots, it's just a name."
- 18) "To survive, we eat both plants and animals - insects, worms, and small fish are part of our diet."
- 19) "Look closely at my shell and you'll see dark black color and beautiful yellow spots!"
- 20) "When it comes to laying eggs, spotted turtles go big! Each of us can lay hundreds of eggs at a time!"
- 21) "I only eat plants and vegetables, not a fan of insects or worms."
- 22) "We are friendly and sometimes even curious about humans, but sadly our numbers are going down due to losing our homes and being captured as pets."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 23) Spotted turtles have an omnivorous diet which includes both plants and animals.
- 24) Their small size makes spotted turtles look adorable.
- 25) Spotted turtles live in various wet areas throughout North America.
- 26) Spotted turtles, with their bright yellow or orange spots, are the most unique looking turtles.
- 27) The shell of a spotted turtle is usually dark with bright orange or yellow spots.
- 28) It's sad that the spotted turtle is a threatened species.
- 29) Spotted turtles generally live for up to 50 years or even longer.
- 30) Each spotted turtle's shell has a unique pattern of spots.
- 31) Spotted turtles are the most unique and beautiful species of turtles.
- 32) It's amazing that spotted turtles can live up to 50 years or more!

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 33) Spotted turtles can live over 50 years.
- 34) Spotted turtles are aggressive and often attack humans.
- 35) Spotted turtles lay fewer eggs than most other turtle species.
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- 39) Spotted turtles will venture high up in trees when they are looking for a mate.
- 40) All spotted turtles have the same pattern of spots.
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- 42) Spotted turtles prefer living in wet areas.



Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

- 43) Spotted turtles can't change their shell color.
A. will not B. cannot
C. do not D. should not
- 44) They might've been around for millions of years.
A. might have B. might not
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- 45) Spotted turtles don't move quickly on land.
A. can not B. should not
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- 46) It's important to protect their habitat.
A. it is B. it has
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- 47) They're usually found near shallow water.
A. they have B. they were
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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 48) Spotted turtles can live for over 50 years in the wild.
- 49) Are spotted turtles endangered?
- 50) Spotted turtles are omnivores and eat a variety of foods, including plants and small insects.
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- 52) How do spotted turtles get their name?
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- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. <u> B </u> | 26. <u> opinion </u> | 51. <u> declarative </u> |
| 2. <u> A </u> | 27. <u> fact </u> | 52. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 3. <u> A </u> | 28. <u> opinion </u> | 53. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 4. <u> D </u> | 29. <u> fact </u> | |
| 5. <u> C </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> | |
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| 7. <u> C </u> | 32. <u> opinion </u> | |
| 8. <u> B </u> | 33. <u> true </u> | |
| 9. <u> C </u> | 34. <u> false </u> | |
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| 23. <u> fact </u> | 48. <u> declarative </u> | |
| 24. <u> opinion </u> | 49. <u> interrogative </u> | |
| 25. <u> fact </u> | 50. <u> declarative </u> | |

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