



PEORIA
ZOO

Species Fact Sheet



REPTILES <http://www.peoriazoo.org/reptiles.html>

Eastern Box Turtle

Terrapene carolina carolina

Peoria Zoo Exhibit **Education Programs**

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/education.html>

Habitat: Moist forested areas, wet meadows, pastures, and flood-plains

Range: Along the entire east coast from Massachusetts to Florida

Activity Cycle: Diurnal— usually early in the day and after a rain

Size: Average is 4.5-5 inches long

Social Structure: They do have territories they live in, but they overlap. Box turtles can be found in the same territory without any aggression.

Distinguishing Features: They have a high-domed shell with a hinge on the plastron (lower half of the shell) allowing them to close their shell to protect themselves. The shell is covered with yellow and orange markings. They have slightly webbed toes and have 4 toes on their back feet.

Diet: Slugs, earthworms, wild strawberries, mushrooms and carrion

Life Span: 75+ years

Did you know?

Box Turtles can eat mushrooms that are toxic to humans. There have been cases of people dying from eating a turtle that has eaten poisonous mushrooms.