



Imagine coming across a cute creature with a hard shell, teeny-tiny tail and four short legs - that's a box turtle for you! These adorable animals have a distinctive dome-shaped shell which is brown with yellow, orange, or white markings. Their name comes from their ability to completely close their shell, just like a box. The males usually have red eyes while the females have brown or yellow eyes. Quite a fashion statement, isn't it?



Now that you've got the picture, let's go on a little journey to discover where these fascinating creatures live. Box turtles are mostly found in North America, and they love to set up home in moist forest areas, grasslands and even near marshy places. They are quite the homebodies, not venturing far from where they were born. They have a special connection with their environment and relocating them can actually make them quite unhappy.

Speaking of home, let's talk about what these little critters munch on in their natural habitat. Box turtles are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and meat. They like to snack on a variety of foods such as insects, snails, berries, fungi and even some flowers. Their varied diet certainly makes them not so picky eaters!

While box turtles are super cool just being themselves, they also have some really nifty relationships with us humans and other animals. Humans often keep box turtles as pets, and they can live a very long time, up to 50 years, with the right care. As for other animals, well, their hard shells protect them from predators. Whether it's their unique look, their interesting homes, or their diet, there's a lot to love about box turtles!





Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Why are these turtles called box turtles?
 - A. They are shaped like boxes
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- 2) How long can a box turtle live with the right care?
 - A. Up to 10 years
 - B. Up to 50 years
 - C. Up to 100 years
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- 3) What happens if box turtles are relocated from their environment?
 - A. They become bigger
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- 4) Are box turtles often kept as pets by humans?
 - A. No, box turtles do not make good pets
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- 5) What is the difference between male and female box turtles?
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- 6) Where are box turtles mostly found?
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 - A. Omnivore
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 - A. Mountain tops and high altitudes
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- 10) What color is the shell of a box turtle?
 - A. Black with yellow or green markings
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Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "I am a gardener's friend as I munch on pests like snails and insects."
- 12) "We can live up to 200 years with the right care."
- 13) "My soft shell makes it easy for other animals to eat me."
- 14) "I love new places. Moving to a new location is always exciting for me."
- 15) "I have a unique and hard shell that keeps me safe."
- 16) "I live in moist forests and grasslands, and I like staying close to where I was born."
- 17) "I love living in the desert, it's so warm and dry."
- 18) "We box turtles cannot close our shell, we just tuck in our legs."
- 19) "I only eat meat, insects are my favorite."
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- 22) "Ever wondered how I got my name? It's because I can fully close my shell, like a box!"
- 23) "We box turtles all have blue eyes, no exception."

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

- 24) The diet of a box turtle includes insects, snails, berries, fungi, and flowers.
- 25) The ability of the box turtles to live in various habitats is one of the most interesting things about them.
- 26) Box turtles are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and meat.
- 27) A box turtle is the best pet because they have a dome-shaped shell and the ability to close it completely.
- 28) The male box turtles have red eyes while the females have brown or yellow eyes.
- 29) Box turtles are less boring than other turtles because of the unique patterns and colors on their shells.
- 30) Box turtles can live up to 50 years when kept as pets with proper care.
- 31) The natural habitat of box turtles consists of moist forest areas, grasslands, and near marshy places.
- 32) It's amazing how box turtles can live for up to 50 years.
- 33) Their hard shells are the most amazing defense mechanism among all creatures.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 34) Box turtles are found mostly in North America.
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- 41) Box turtles eyes are always red.
- 42) Box turtles can live up to 50 years.
- 43) Box turtles have a dome-shaped shell.

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

- 44) It's important to be gentle when handling a box turtle.
 - A. It has
 - B. It is
 - C. It was
 - D. It does
- 45) Box turtles shouldn't be taken from the wild as pets.
 - A. should not
 - B. shall not
 - C. should have
 - D. would not
- 46) Box turtles don't have webbed feet like other turtles.
 - A. does not
 - B. cannot
 - C. did not
 - D. do not
- 47) Box turtles can't swim very well because they're mostly land animals.
 - A. cannot
 - B. can
 - C. do not
 - D. will not
- 48) They're great at hiding in leaves and bushes.
 - A. They do
 - B. They is
 - C. They are
 - D. They were

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 49) Box turtles are known for their slow movement.
- 50) Can box turtles retract into their shells?
- 51) Box turtles hibernate during the winter to survive the cold temperatures.
- 52) Box turtles have a lifespan of 40 to 50 years.
- 53) What are some interesting facts about box turtles?
- 54) Do box turtles have shells?

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- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. <u> C </u> | 26. <u> fact </u> | 51. <u> declarative </u> |
| 2. <u> B </u> | 27. <u> opinion </u> | 52. <u> declarative </u> |
| 3. <u> C </u> | 28. <u> fact </u> | 53. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 4. <u> D </u> | 29. <u> opinion </u> | 54. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 5. <u> B </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> | |
| 6. <u> B </u> | 31. <u> fact </u> | |
| 7. <u> B </u> | 32. <u> opinion </u> | |
| 8. <u> A </u> | 33. <u> opinion </u> | |
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| 22. <u> true </u> | 47. <u> A </u> | |
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| 25. <u> opinion </u> | 50. <u> interrogative </u> | |



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