



Box Turtle

Terrapene ornata and Terrapene carolina triunguis



What is the history of my relationship to man?

Finding box turtles in the wild and taking them as pets., Can have detrimental effects. Box turtles want to stay in the same area where they were born. If moved more than a half-mile from its territory, it may never find its way back; but may spend years searching. This exposes the animal to danger and disrupts the breeding cycle. They must always be returned to where they were picked up.



Where am I from? .

You will find us crossing the roads of the Midwest,. in the central United States.



Who are my relatives?

Other Turtles and Tortoises Like the African Helmeted Turtle and the Chinese soft shelled turtle.

Habitat / Climate

Forest and grasslands of the Midwest
We hibernate in the winter.

Other family members:

Leather Back Turtle

Breeding Potential

Up to 16eggs for some female if they lay a second time in a year.

How am I born?

Our eggs are laid in early summer. My Mom will dig a hole with the strong, curved claws on her hind feet and lay 2 - 8 white eggs in it. The eggs are about 35 mm long. She does not guard the nest. The eggs will hatch in a couple of months.

How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live?

A baby box turtle is about the size of a quarter. The average life span of box turtles is 40 years. However, it is possible for a box turtle to live for over 100 years.

Breeding Season

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

What kind of family life do I have?

We are active from April through October. We may spend our entire life within an area of only a few acres. We begin our day by basking in the sun. After getting warmed up, we goe looking for food. A box turtle on the hunt is fun to observe. We have an earnest determination that is quite admirable.

Names

Male
Female
Young

What do I eat and when do I eat?

We likes to eat insects, spiders, worms and some vegetarian fare such as berries. In cow pastures, we may often be found around dung piles looking for beetles!

Who are my predators?

Habitat destruction is the biggest problem facing box turtles

Comments:

It has also been speculated that these turtles eat poisonous mushrooms, but are not themselves sickened by the mushroom's toxins. Afterwards, the turtles then become poisonous themselves. Carr[9] believes this to be the reason why a group of boys in Mississippi became ill after eating roasted three-toed box turtles.



