

Fun Turtle Facts!



- Turtles are reptiles which means they have: scales to cover their skin (even on their shell!), lay eggs, have a backbone, are cold blooded, and breathe air using lungs.
- Turtles that live in places with cold winters (like New Jersey) need to hibernate during the winter. They do this by digging underground or deep into the mud.
- Many turtles are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals.
- Some turtles in New Jersey like the Eastern Box Turtle (pictured) are terrestrial, which means they live on land. Other turtles like the Eastern Painted Turtle are aquatic, this means they live in the water.
- Eastern Box turtles have a special hinge on the bottom of their shell, which allows them to close up completely like a box (that's where they get their name from!)
- In 2018 New Jersey got an official state reptile, the Bog Turtle! This tiny turtle species is only about 4 inches long.

How you can help:

In NJ, turtles face a lot of problems. You can help them by making sure to put all of your trash where it belongs so it doesn't end up in their habitat. Also, if you ever see a turtle trying to cross a road, if it is safe to do so, you can lift it gently by the back of the shell and place it off of the road in the same direction it was going.