

Lesson Topic: Eastern Box Turtle Habitat

NC Curriculum Standard link:

2nd Grade: 2.L.1.1, EX.2.L.1.1

4th Grade: EX.4.L.1.1, EX.4.L.1.3, EX.4.L.1.4

Vocabulary:

- **Adaptation:** A special skill which helps an animal to survive and do everything it needs to do. Adaptations can be physical changes to the animals body or behavioral changes in how an animal does things in their daily lives.
- **Brumation:** A cold-blooded animals' version of hibernation is called brumation. The reptile slows down, is sluggish, inactive during the winter.
- **Cold-blooded animals:** Animals, such as reptiles, fishes, and amphibians, that cannot control their body temperature. They must lay in the sun to warm up and go to the shade or water to cool down.
- **Diet:** The food an animal eats.
- **Habitat:** Where an animal lives and can find all the food, water, shelter, space & friends (others of the same species) to survive.
- **Hibernation:** When animals have long periods of deep sleep during winter. Their metabolism, or the rate the body burns calories, slows down to save energy. Their breathing and heart rate also slow down to save energy and their temperatures also drop.
- **Reptile:** A vertebrate (has a back-bone) animal with scaly skin, lays soft-shelled eggs, and is cold-blooded. Includes snakes, lizards, crocodiles, alligators, turtles, and tortoises.

Materials list for project:

- Habitat Check-List worksheet
- Outdoor space in yard or park near your home
- Drawing supplies

How-to instructions for project:

1. **Watch Video:** <https://youtu.be/KLsf5ODKwd4>
2. **Go outside to your backyard or local park with an adult-** Make sure to bring the habitat check-list and supplies to draw with.
3. **Search your outdoor area for the habitat needs of an Eastern Box Turtle.**
4. **Record your findings on the habitat check-list.**
5. **Share your experience and habitat check-list with your teacher or a trusted adult.**

Habitat Check-List

Draw what you found in your outdoor space in the boxes below.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Examples of Box Turtle food (Diet) I found...</p> | <p>Examples of where a Box Turtle can get water...</p> |
| <p>Examples of where a Box Turtle can find shelter (place to hide)...</p> | <p>What dangers would a box turtle face in this space? Is there a road, dogs, etc.?</p> |