



Imagine a little, cute creature with a hard shell and four tiny legs; yes, we're talking about the mud turtle! Mud turtles are small turtles that usually grow to about 3 to 4 inches long. They have a smooth, flat, and hard shell that is usually brown, black, or olive green. Their tiny feet are equipped with claws, and their head has a rather pointed snout with a beak-like mouth.



Now that we know how they look, let's dive into where these little guys love to hang out. Mud turtles can be found in a wide range of habitats but they especially love slow-moving freshwater environments. From marshes, ponds, to streams, these turtles love a good splash! They're even known to bury themselves in soft mud during the winter to keep warm.

Speaking of burying in mud, have you ever wondered about what these turtles munch on? Well, mud turtles are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals. Their diet mainly consists of aquatic plants, small fish, insects, and even small frogs. They have strong jaws that help them grind their food, no matter how hard or slimy!



Just like us humans, mud turtles also have a very interesting life story. After the female mud turtle lays her eggs, she leaves them to hatch on their own. The little baby turtles, known as hatchlings, then have to fend for themselves right from the start. So, the next time you see a small, cute turtle, remember, it might just be a mud turtle, a little creature with a big life story!

**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) How long do mud turtles usually grow to be?
 - A. 1 to 2 inches long
 - B. 3 to 4 inches long
 - C. 7 to 8 inches long
 - D. 5 to 6 inches long
- 2) Where do mud turtles love to hang out?
 - A. Dry desert sand dunes
 - B. Slow-moving freshwater environments
 - C. Rocky mountain streams
 - D. Fast-flowing rivers
- 3) What does a mud turtle eat?
 - A. Both plants and animals
 - B. Only plants
 - C. Only animals
 - D. Only insects
- 4) What does a mud turtle's shell look like?
 - A. Bumpy and soft
 - B. Spiked and rough
 - C. Smooth and flat
 - D. Smooth with spikes
- 5) Where do mud turtles often bury themselves?
 - A. In thick snow
 - B. In warm sand
 - C. In mud
 - D. Under tree roots
- 6) What color can a mud turtle's shell be?
 - A. White, gray, or yellow
 - B. Orange, pink, or green
 - C. Red, blue, or purple
 - D. Brown, black, or olive green
- 7) What does a female mud turtle do after she lays her eggs?
 - A. Leaves them to hatch on their own
 - B. Carries them around
 - C. Stays and guards them
 - D. Takes them to water
- 8) What is the name for a baby turtle?
 - A. Hatchling
 - B. Cub
 - C. Chick
 - D. Pup
- 9) What time of the year do mud turtles bury themselves?
 - A. Winter
 - B. Summer
 - C. Spring
 - D. Autumn
- 10) What type of snout does a mud turtle have?
 - A. A flat snout
 - B. A pointed snout
 - C. A round snout
 - D. A square snout

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "My shell is soft and squishy, not hard at all."
- 12) "I'm one of the biggest turtles, growing up to 6 feet long."



- 13) "I live in places like ponds and streams, where I can swim all day!"
- 14) "Did you know that I only grow up to 4 inches long, which is about as tall as a crayon?"
- 15) "During winter, I love to play in the snow."
- 16) "I detest the water, I prefer to stay on land."
- 17) "I can eat almost anything I find in the water, from fish to insects!"
- 18) "I only eat mud. That's how I got my name."
- 19) "I don't have claws on my feet, instead they're smooth and perfect for sliding through the mud."
- 20) "My mother watches over me until I grow up."
- 21) "I prefer living in sea water. I'm an excellent swimmer and love the ocean waves."
- 22) "Even though we've got little legs, we're great swimmers and can be found in slow-moving freshwater habitats like ponds and marshes."
- 23) "Despite being a turtle, I enjoy roaming in deserts."
- 24) "Believe it or not, I'm a strict vegetarian! All I need is green grass and seaweed to stay healthy."
- 25) "When I get cold in winter, I find a cozy place in soft mud to sleep and stay warm."

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

- 26) Most mud turtles hibernate in soft mud during the winter to keep warm.
- 27) It is amazing how hatchlings can survive on their own right after birth.
- 28) The diet of mud turtles mainly consists of aquatic plants, small fish, insects, and even small frogs.
- 29) Mud turtles are the best kind of turtles because they live in water.
- 30) Mud turtles can be found in a variety of habitats, but they particularly love slow-moving fresh water areas.
- 31) Mud turtles' tiny beak-like mouth is adorable.
- 32) Mud turtles have a smooth, flat, and hard shell that is typically brown, black, or olive green.
- 33) Mud turtles eat both plants and animals, making them omnivores.
- 34) It is amazing that mud turtles can survive being buried in mud during winter.
- 35) The way mud turtles blend in with their surroundings is the best defense tactic.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 36) Mud turtles can be found in slow-moving freshwater environments.
- 37) Female mud turtles stay with their eggs until they hatch.
- 38) Mud turtles hatch from eggs.
- 39) Mud turtles live in saltwater habitats.
- 40) Mud turtles are known to bury themselves in soft mud during the winter to keep warm.
- 41) Mud turtles migrate south during the winter.
- 42) Mud turtles can grow to be as long as 10 inches.



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| 1. <u> B </u> | 26. <u> fact </u> | 51. <u> declarative </u> |
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| 5. <u> C </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> | 55. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 6. <u> D </u> | 31. <u> opinion </u> | 56. <u> interrogative </u> |
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| 8. <u> A </u> | 33. <u> fact </u> | |
| 9. <u> A </u> | 34. <u> opinion </u> | |
| 10. <u> B </u> | 35. <u> opinion </u> | |
| 11. <u> false </u> | 36. <u> true </u> | |
| 12. <u> false </u> | 37. <u> false </u> | |
| 13. <u> true </u> | 38. <u> true </u> | |
| 14. <u> true </u> | 39. <u> false </u> | |
| 15. <u> false </u> | 40. <u> true </u> | |
| 16. <u> false </u> | 41. <u> false </u> | |
| 17. <u> true </u> | 42. <u> false </u> | |
| 18. <u> false </u> | 43. <u> false </u> | |
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| 22. <u> true </u> | 47. <u> A </u> | |
| 23. <u> false </u> | 48. <u> D </u> | |
| 24. <u> false </u> | 49. <u> A </u> | |
| 25. <u> true </u> | 50. <u> C </u> | |



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