

# PAINTED TURTLES



The painted turtle is the most wide-spread native turtle in North America! They prefer to live in marshes, ponds, and shallow spots in lakes and rivers that support dense vegetation. Look for them basking on logs and rocks in the water on sunny days. Painted turtles begin to lay their eggs in late April/early May in holes in soft, sandy soils. The eggs hatch mid-summer, but the hatchling turtles remain in the nest, surviving on fat reserves, until the following spring.

## Make a Painted Turtle Hatchling

**Materials:** Egg carton, paints and paintbrush, paper, tape or glue, markers or colored pencils, scissors

**Directions:**

1. Cut out a piece of egg carton for the turtle's shell. Paint or color it to resemble a painted turtle hatchling or however you like.
2. While the shell dries, cut out and color the turtle's body in a shape similar to this.
3. Painted turtles are dark green and dotted with yellow, orange, and sometimes red. Additionally, you can decorate your hatchling with googly eyes or any other materials you may have at home.
4. Cut out the turtle's body and tape or glue the shell on. Enjoy playing with your turtle hatchling!

