

MAP TURTLE

(*Graptemys geographica*)

NONNATIVE



Description: Small to medium turtle (up to 11 inches long), with greenish to olive-brown carapace with prominent raised notches down the center and a variable pattern of yellowish lines. Map turtles have pale eyes, often with a large yellow spot behind each one, and webbed feet.

Habitat: Aquatic; inhabits shallow, slow-moving streams, ponds, or lakes with soft sand or mud bottoms with a lot of vegetation and basking sites. Native to the eastern and midwestern United States; can be found in urban bodies of water outside of their native range because of their popularity in the pet trade.

Behavior: Omnivorous; eats some insects, carrion, and plants, but are highly adapted to prey on snails and other mollusks. Basks on logs or rocks, often stacked one upon another, but will quickly dive under the surface if startled.

If you find one: If you find a map turtle away from a source of water, where its welfare is questionable or threatened, please contact the [nearest Game and Fish office](#) or the Phoenix Herpetological Society for information and recommendations.

