



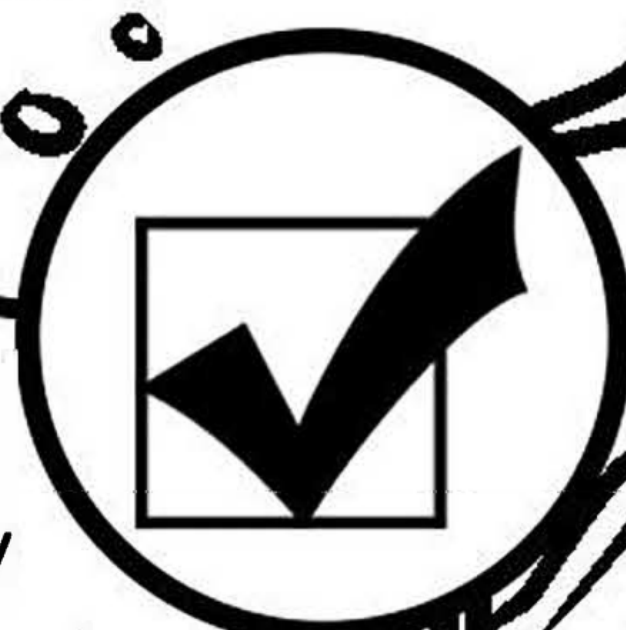
WILDLIFE PRESERVATION CANADA
SPECIES AT RISK

WESTERN PAINTED TURTLE

status: endangered in Canada
scientific name: *Chrysemys picta bellii*



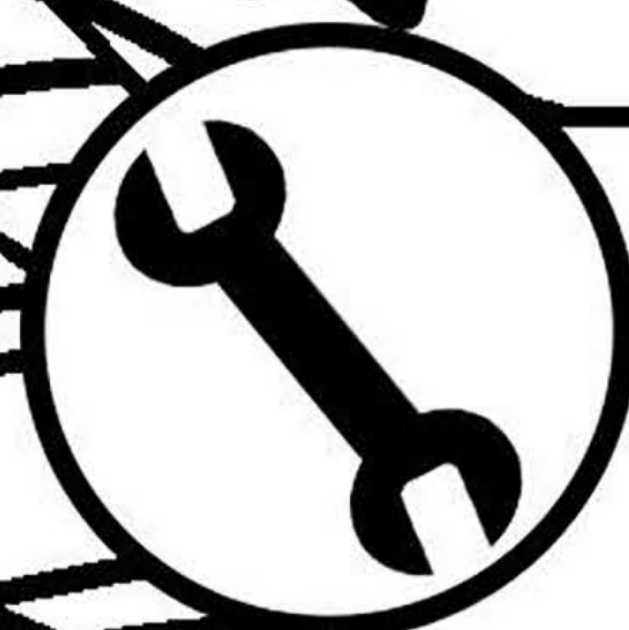
Western painted turtles eat insects, snails, algae, aquatic vegetation and sometimes dead animal matter called **detritus**. For big food items, the turtle will use both its mouth and feet to tear the food apart.



Wildlife Preservation

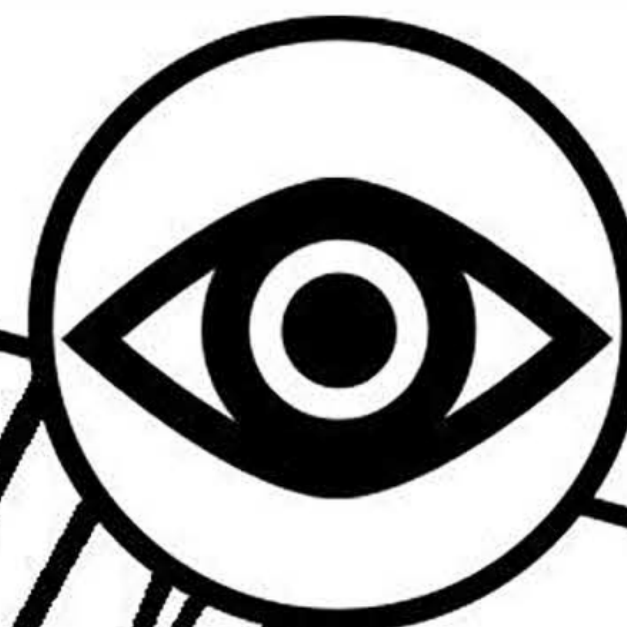
Canada is saving turtles by bringing eggs inside and keeping young turtles over the winter. They are released back into the wild the next spring when they are stronger. This process is called **headstarting**.

Western painted turtles live in lakes, streams, and ponds that have slow-moving water and muddy bottoms. Turtles are **ectothermic**, so they get their warmth from basking in the sun.



Female turtles use their back legs to dig a hole in a sandy area for their nest. They lay their eggs in a group called a **clutch**. The baby turtles are safer when they hatch in a large group.

The **painted turtle** is named after the yellow stripes that are painted on its body. The bottom of its shell is called the **plastron**. It also has yellow or red markings.



SAFE TRAVELS ACROSS...WORD

USE FACTS YOU HAVE LEARNED
TO COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD BELOW!

SLOW + STEADY!



Across

- 2. The name for a group of turtle eggs
- 5. The bottom shell of a turtle
- 6. Bringing turtle eggs inside over winter
- 9. One of the colours on the turtle's plastron
- 10. The time of year that young turtles are released into the wild
- 11. The colour of the stripes on the turtle's body

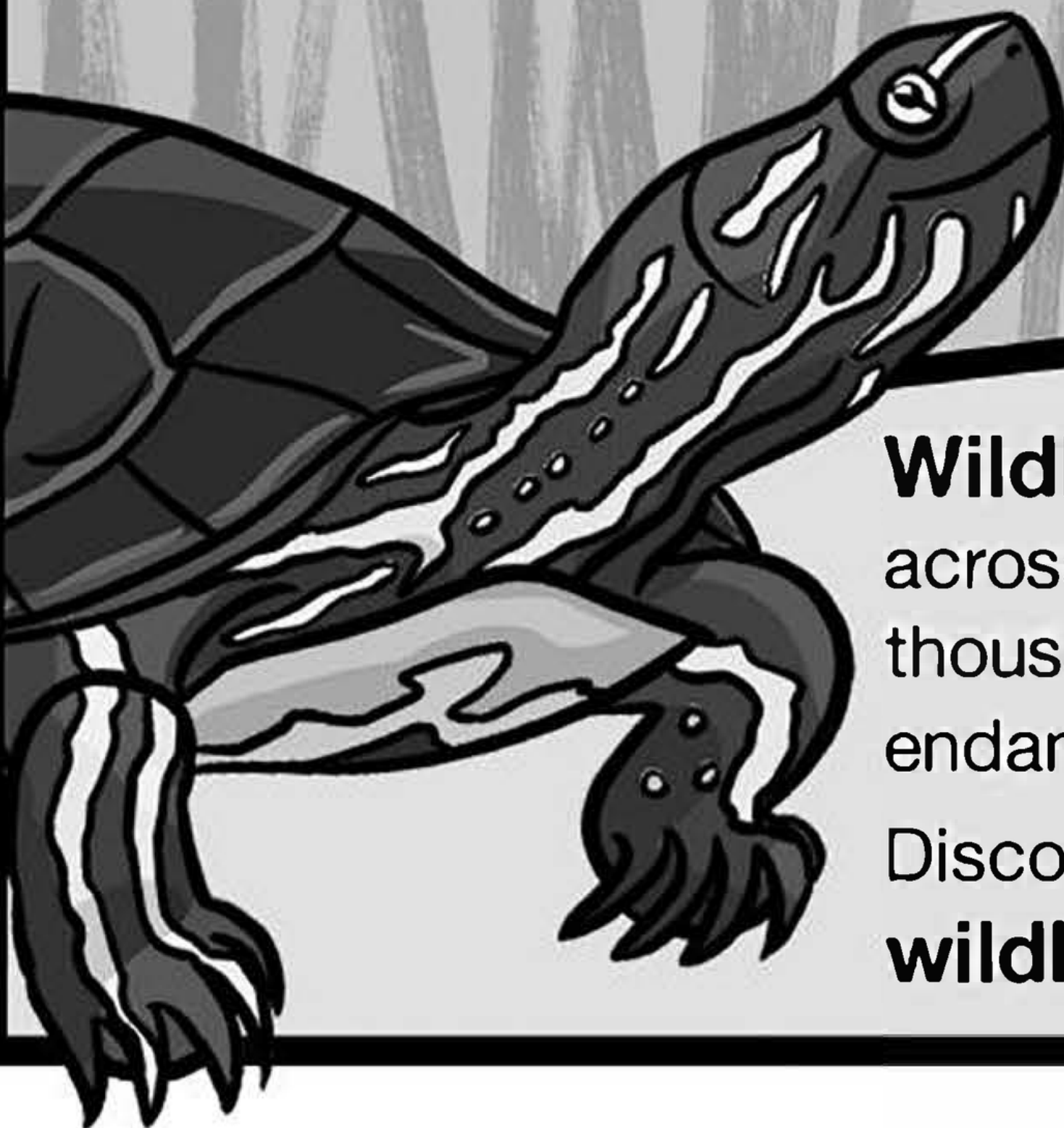
Down

- 1. Getting warmth from the sun
- 3. The status of the western painted turtle
- 4. One of the habitats that turtles live in
- 7. The name for dead animal and plant matter that turtles eat
- 8. The speed of the water they live in
- 10. The type of soil turtles like to lay their eggs in



EASY DOES IT!

Answers: 1. ectothermic 2. clutch 3. endangered 4. lake 5. plastron 6. headstarting 7. detritus 8. slow 9. red 10. slow



LEARN MORE

Wildlife Preservation Canada saves species from extinction across Canada by providing direct, hands-on care. You can join the thousands of people who are helping to save Canada's most endangered animals like the **western painted turtle**.
Discover ways that you can help endangered animals today at:
wildlifepreservation.ca

