

Reptiles

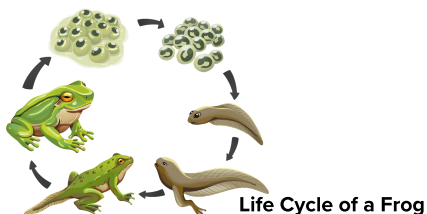
Reptiles are cold blooded vertebrate animals that are typically covered in keratin rich scales. Turtles, snakes and lizards are the types of reptiles found here at the park.

Each reptile is unique, with a different set of features to accommodate it's lifestyle. Reptiles can be found in both aquatic and land habitats. Some species lay soft shelled eggs whereas some have live births.

Amphibians

Amphibians are cold blooded as well, relying on external heat sources. Frogs, toads and salamanders are the types of amphibians found at CLSP.

Amphibians are extremely unique in their reproductive cycle, requiring an aquatic setting for their young to undergo metamorphosis. Eggs are laid in water, tadpoles that breathe through gills will hatch, and eventually fully grown amphibians develop lungs. In some cases, they are too small to develop lungs and rely on their skin to breathe.



Find a Box Turtle?

Eastern box turtles are one of the most common reptiles found here at the park, and in the surrounding area.

Box turtles are very commonly seen crossing roadways. If you choose to help a turtle cross the road, pick it up from behind (hamburger style) and move it in the direction it was going.

The Virginia Herpetological Society is currently working on a survey of box turtles. If you see one, snap a pic and visit Virginia Herpetological Society's website for further Instructions.

Additional Resources

The following links provide identification keys, learning guides and ways to get involved with herpetology.

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/>

<https://virginiaherpetologicalsociety.com>

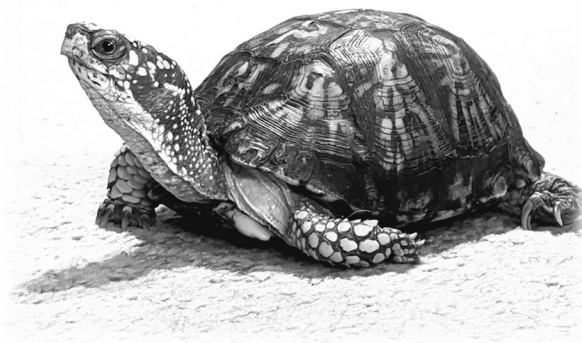


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VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

*Claytor Lake State Park
presents*

Reptiles and Amphibians



Eastern Box Turtle
Terrapene carolina carolina

www.virginiastateparks.gov

A Guide to this Brochure:

This brochure provides an introduction to **Herpetology**, the study of reptile and amphibians and a check list of the species *you are **most likely*** to find at Claytor Lake State Park (CLSP). Reptiles and amphibians can be hard to find but this will help you identify them when you do.

Getting Started:

Claytor Lake is in the habitat range for at least 50 species of reptiles and amphibians. These species are important to the entire ecosystem at CLSP.

While the park is plentiful with reptiles and amphibians, both are considered largely asocial. Meaning that sightings are rare, but exciting when they do occur. Don't be discouraged by a day with no sightings, even professional herpetologists can't find them sometimes.

Please respect wildlife, do not touch or feed wild animals.

Snakes

Did you know: Snakes do not have eyelids or ears? A protective scale covers their eyes, and they sense noise through vibration.

- ☐ Eastern Copperhead
- ☐ Timber Rattlesnake
- ☐ Eastern Wormsnake
- ☐ Northern Black Racer
- ☐ Northern Ring-necked Snake
- ☐ Eastern Hog-nosed Snake
- ☐ Eastern Milk Snake
- ☐ Northern Watersnake
- ☐ Eastern Ratsnake
- ☐ Queensnake
- ☐ DeKay's Brownsnake
- ☐ Red-bellied Snake
- ☐ Eastern Gartersnake

Eastern Ratsnake



Lizards

- ☐ Common Five-lined Skink
- ☐ Eastern Fence Lizard

Turtles

Turtles are commonly found basking on logs near the shoreline, they are one of the most common species found at CLSP.

- ☐ Snapping Turtle
- ☐ Eastern Painted Turtle
- ☐ Eastern River Cooter
- ☐ Eastern Musk Turtle
- ☐ Eastern Box Turtle
- ☐ Red-eared Slider

Eastern Painted Turtle



Frogs and Toads

Did you know: Almost 90% of all amphibians are frogs or toads? There are over 7,000 different species of frogs and toads.

- ☐ Eastern American Toad
- ☐ Fowler's Toad
- ☐ Green Treefrog
- ☐ Gray Treefrog
- ☐ American Bullfrog
- ☐ Green Frog
- ☐ Pickerel Frog
- ☐ Wood Frog
- ☐ Spring Peeper
- ☐ Mountain Chorus Frog
- ☐ Upland Chorus Frog

Pickerel Frog



Salamanders

Did you know: The Appalachian Mountains have the highest amount of salamander diversity in the world?

- ☐ Jefferson Salamander
- ☐ Spotted Salamander
- ☐ Northern Dusky Salamander
- ☐ Marbled Salamander
- ☐ Southern Two-lined Salamander
- ☐ Eastern Long-tailed Salamander
- ☐ Four-toed Salamander
- ☐ Red Spotted Newt
- ☐ Eastern Red-backed Salamander
- ☐ White Spotted Slimy Salamander
- ☐ Northern Slimy Salamander
- ☐ Wehrle's Salamander
- ☐ Yonahlossee Salamander



Jefferson S.