

# PAINTED TURTLE

(*Chrysemys picta*)

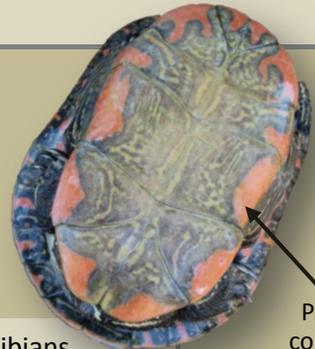
NONNATIVE

(Except in Apache  
County, AZ)



**Description:** Small to medium size turtle (up to 10 inches long) with a low, flat carapace with a yellow or red border. The plastron is bright yellow or red and the legs are marked with yellow or red stripes.

**Habitat:** Aquatic; inhabits slow moving streams and reservoirs with soft bottoms, and plenty of logs and rocks for basking. Native to much of the United States, and possibly to one location in Apache County, Arizona. It has been introduced to urban ponds and canals of Phoenix and Tucson.



Plastron is colorful with a dominant pattern

**Behavior:** Omnivorous; eats insects, fish, amphibians, carrion, and aquatic plants. Forages in ponds, lakes, and slow-moving areas of streams where it basks on logs or rocks.

**If you find one:** If you find a painted 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.

\*A hunting license is required to remove reptiles from the wild in Arizona. See current regulations at [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov).

