MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

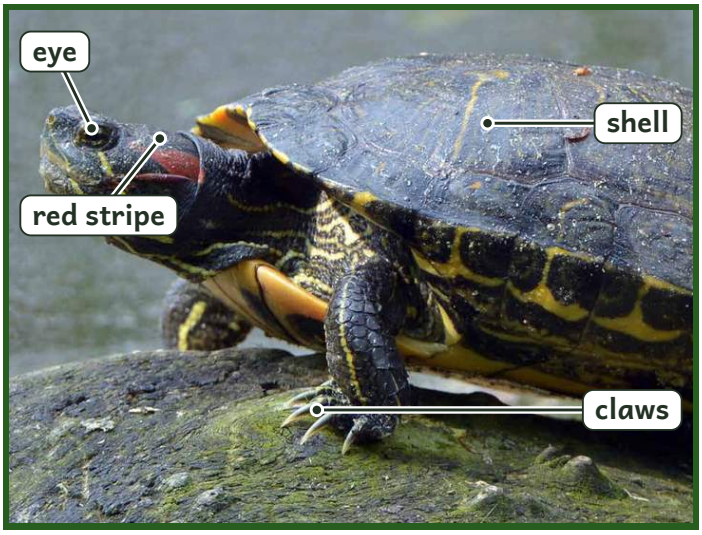
RED-EARED SLIDER

Trachemys scripta elegans

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
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Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



A slider rests on a rock.

Its body

A slider is a turtle.
It has a red stripe by its eye.
It has webbed feet.
It can pull its head into its shell.
It has a beak but no teeth.

Its home (habitat)

It lives in slow water.
Sunny spots help it stay warm.
Shelly lives at our zoo.



■ Lives in parts of this area ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It eats water plants.
It eats small water animals.

Its babies (life cycle)

A mother digs a nest on land.
She lays her eggs there.
Young turtles **hatch** from the eggs.
The parents do not care for them.

Fun facts

It **basks** in the sun to get warm.
It slides off rocks!

Words to know

bask: to lie in the sun to get warm
hatch: to come out of an egg
webbed: with skin between the toes

Talk about it

1. How did a slider get its name?
2. Why does a slider lie in the sun?
3. Where does a mother lay her eggs?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/reptiles-and-amphibians/red-eared-slider/ · **Sources:** Animal Diversity Web; Maryland DNR turtle field guide; USGS / NOAA species profile; IUCN Red List, 2011 publication
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A)
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RED-EARED SLIDER

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the red-eared slider fact sheet for grades K–2 · **© 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. A slider has a red stripe. **YES** **NO**
2. A slider has sharp teeth. **YES** **NO**
3. A mother lays eggs on land. **YES** **NO**
4. Parents care for the babies. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ red stripe
- ☐ shell
- ☐ webbed feet
- ☐ claws
- ☐ eyes
- ☐ sunny rock

What is it doing? Circle one.

swimming · basking · resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a slider on a sunny rock. Show its red stripe.

Draw here

A slider has _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular red-eared slider sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **No zoo trip?** Check off what you can find in the photo on page 1. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/reptiles-and-amphibians/red-eared-slider/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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