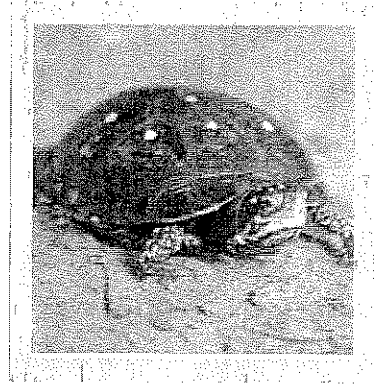


The Spotted Turtle

The spotted turtle is a type of land-dwelling turtle that is native to the eastern part of the United States. Spotted turtles are a unique species. They have black shells speckled with yellow dots, scaly skin, and webbed feet. They eat aquatic insects, crayfish, tadpoles, worms, and other small creatures. Spotted turtles live in shallow swamps and wetlands. This habitat is ideal, because they can swim in shallow water in search of food and also have easy access to the dry land. Nevertheless, a major threat to these turtles exists. The wetlands they call home are becoming more and more sparse in the United States.

Though spotted turtles may seem quite common, they are actually endangered. Many people confuse Spotted Turtles for their omnipresent, water-dwelling cousin, the painted turtle. Spotted turtles are endangered due to habitat destruction, illegal poaching, and getting run over by cars. Many other turtles are not in danger of being run over, because they are less mobile than the spotted turtle. As humans enlarge their communities, there is an increasing need to use wild land for roads, farms, and homes. This proliferation, and the resulting construction, destroys the habitats of many animals like the spotted turtle.



1) This passage would most likely be read in which of the following classes?

- A. science
- B. social studies
- C. math
- D. language arts

2) According to the passage, spotted turtles live in

- A. large pond communities
- B. the northwestern United States
- C. shallow swamps and wetlands
- D. grassy areas near the road

3) Based on its use in the passage, it can be understood that the word **sparse** belongs to which of the following word groups?

- A. thick, dense, overgrown
- B. scattered, scanty, infrequent
- C. crowded, populated, busy

D. dry, parched, arid

4) Toward the end of the passage, the author writes, "Many other turtles are not in danger of being run over, because they are less mobile than the spotted turtle." From this, it can be understood that

- A. one of the spotted turtle's evolutionary advantages is now a weakness
- B. most other turtles live in the water, while the spotted turtle lives on land
- C. a spotted turtle's webbed feet slow it down while walking over hard surfaces
- D. spotted turtles are difficult to see on the road because of their shell coloring

5) In addition to providing information about the spotted turtle, the author

- A. compares and contrasts spotted turtles and other small turtles
- B. lists ways that students can help turtles and other endangered species
- C. suggests that humans are responsible for endangering certain species
- D. explains how spotted turtles became one of the most populated turtles

6) As used at the end of the passage, the word **proliferation** most nearly means

- A. danger
- B. extinction
- C. destruction
- D. increase

7) What do you think can be done to save the spotted turtle from being endangered or going extinct? Explain three different ideas.
