

Diamondback Terrapin

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*(Malaclemys terrapin)*

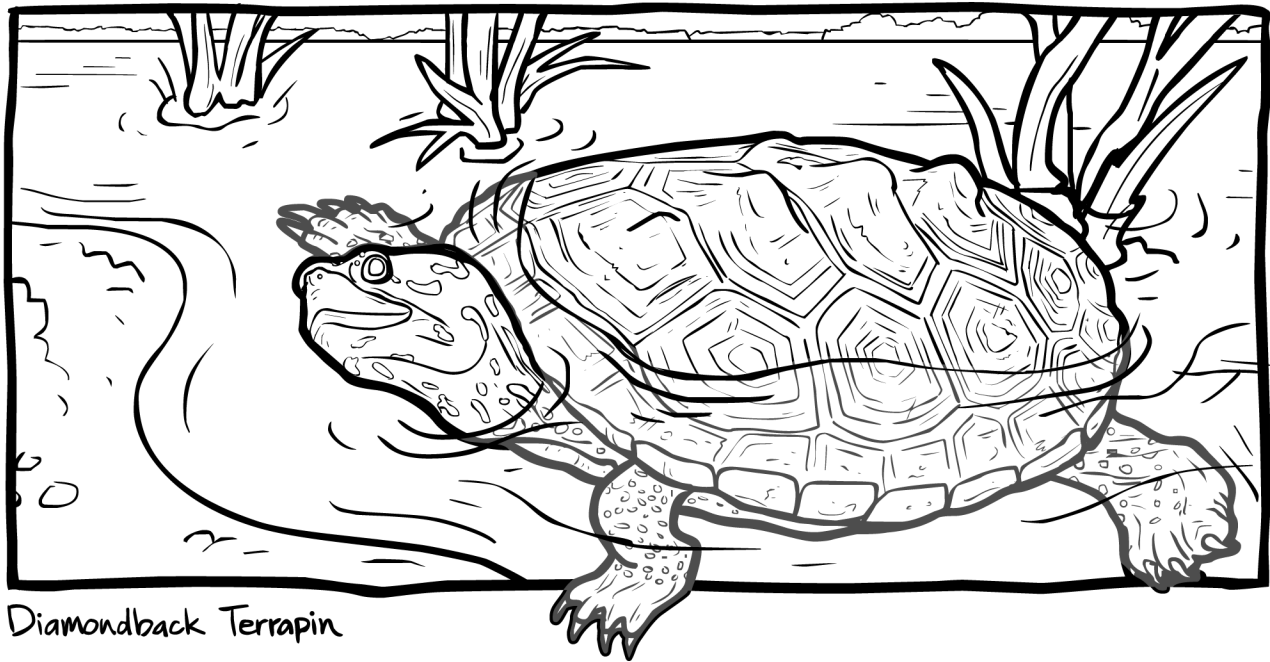
## Instant ID

- A highly-variable turtle species adapted to live in brackish water (saltwater / freshwater mix)
- Shell has distinct, well-grooved scutes (plates) with varying amounts of green, brown, black and yellow depending on the subspecies
- Toes are webbed and hind feet are much larger than front feet
- Beak (turtle's mouth) is well defined and often lighter than skin
- Females grow up to 9 1/2 inches and males up to 5 1/2 inches

## Native Niches

- Found in the marshes, lagoons and estuaries (areas where rivers meet saltwater) of the eastern United States





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## Favorite Foods

- Eats marine snails, clams and other saltwater invertebrates

## Critter Characteristics

- Adaptations to living in saltwater include the lachrymal glands (tear ducts which secrete extra salt) and skin which repels salt
- 5 sub-species native to Florida: Carolina, Florida East Coast, Mangrove, Ornate and Mississippi Diamondback Terrapins
- Has one of the largest ranges of North American turtles
- More closely related to freshwater turtles than marine turtles

## Population Protection

- Once harvested for their meat, populations are rebounding
- Human changes to coastal areas remove suitable habitat