



Imagine a turtle with a shell that looks like a mountain range, that's a razor-backed turtle! This turtle doesn't only have a cool name, but it also looks awesome with its jagged, saw-like shell that gives it a unique look. Its shell is usually dark brown or black, and its skin can be a variety of colors from grey to olive green. And you know what's even cooler? The older they get, the more rugged their shells become.



From the sharp lines of their shells, let's dive into where these unique turtles live. Razor-backed turtles are commonly found in the southeastern United States, particularly in the sunny, warm areas of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. They love spending time in slow-moving, muddy waters like swamps, ponds, and streams. Just like us enjoying a day at the pool, these turtles love to bask in the sun on logs or rocks near the water.

While they're hanging out by the water, razor-backed turtles are also on the lookout for their favorite meals. These turtles are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and meat. Their diet includes insects, small fish, and various types of plants that grow in or near the water. Not so different from us, right? Except, they probably don't like pizza as much as we do!



Now that we've talked about their dining habits, let's explore their relationships and defense strategies. Razor-backed turtles are generally peaceful and don't pose a threat to humans, but they can bite if they feel threatened or scared. Their sharp-edged shell serves as a natural defense against predators, making it hard for other animals to eat them. So, next time you see a razor-backed turtle, remember it's a cool buddy that just wants to chill by the

water and enjoy its meals!



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What color is the shell of a razor-backed turtle?  
A. Brown or black  
B. Blue or purple  
C. Silver or white  
D. Grey or olive green
- 2) Which of these is a defensive adaptation of razor-backed turtles?  
A. Venomous bite  
B. Toxic skin  
C. Fast swimming speed  
D. Sharp-edged shell
- 3) What kind of diet do razor-backed turtles follow?  
A. Herbivore  
B. Pescatarian  
C. Omnivore  
D. Carnivore
- 4) What kind of waters do razor-backed turtles prefer?  
A. Saltwater oceans  
B. Fast-flowing, clear waters  
C. Slow-moving, muddy waters  
D. Frozen lakes and ponds
- 5) What colors can the skin of a razor-backed turtle be?  
A. Yellow and purple  
B. Grey to green  
C. Black and white  
D. Red and blue
- 6) Where can you commonly find razor-backed turtles?  
A. Southeastern United States  
B. Western Europe  
C. Northern Africa  
D. Northeastern United States
- 7) What does a razor-backed turtle's diet include?  
A. Insects, small fish, and various types of plants  
B. Candy, ice cream, and cookies  
C. Tiny bacteria, microscopic algae, and invisible fungi  
D. Big birds, large mammals, and tall trees
- 8) Are razor-backed turtles a threat to humans?  
A. Yes, they are very aggressive  
B. Yes, they are extremely dangerous  
C. Yes, they are highly venomous  
D. No, they are generally peaceful
- 9) What are razor-backed turtles usually seen doing during the day?  
A. Basking in the sun  
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A. They can spit venom  
B. They can camouflage  
C. They can bite  
D. They can release a foul smelling odor

**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it is not something the animal would say (N).**

- 11) "Sunbathing? No thanks. I prefer to stay in the water where it's nice and cool."
- 12) "Just like your mealtime, my plate also consists of plants and meat. I'm an omnivore!"



- 13) "I'm not aggressive, but that doesn't mean I don't have any defense. My shell is pretty tough, it helps protect me from other animals."
- 14) "Did you know that my shell changes as I grow older? It gets more rugged and looks even cooler!"
- 15) "I prefer cooler climates. You'd catch me chilling in frosty Alaska."
- 16) "My shell is as smooth as a baby's skin, no matter how old I get."
- 17) "I despise insects and small fish. Plants are all I need!"
- 18) "Catering to my carnivorous tendencies, mice and birds make up most of my diet."
- 19) "I am a very aggressive species and can be very confrontational."
- 20) "Like you, I also love basking in the sun! I like to do it on logs or rocks near water, sounds fun, right?"
- 21) "You'll always find me in fast-moving, clear waters. I wouldn't be caught dead in a muddy swamp!"
- 22) "I live in the sunny parts of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, in slow-moving, muddy waters called swamps, ponds, and streams."

**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 23) Razor-backed turtles can be found in the states of Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana in the US.
- 24) The way a razor-backed turtle's shell grows more rugged as it ages is more fascinating than anything else about them.
- 25) Razor-backed turtles prefer slow-moving, muddy waters like swamps and ponds.
- 26) The way razor-backed turtles can bite if they feel threatened is scary.
- 27) The older razor-backed turtles get, the more rugged their shells become.
- 28) It's really gross that razor-backed turtles eat insects.
- 29) Razor-backed turtles eat both plants and meat.
- 30) Razor-backed turtles usually live in the southeastern United States.
- 31) Razor-backed turtles, with their jagged shells, are the most unique type of turtle.
- 32) The fact that razor-backed turtles can eat both meat and plants makes them the best kind of turtle.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 33) The older razor-backed turtles get, the more rugged their shells become.
- 34) When the razor-backed turtle gets older, its shell becomes more smooth.
- 35) Razor-backed turtles love spending time in slow-moving muddy waters.
- 36) Razor-backed turtles are commonly found in the northeastern United States.
- 37) Razor-backed turtles will bask in the sun on logs or rocks near water.
- 38) Razor-backed turtles are carnivores and only eat meat.
- 39) Razor-backed turtles get their name because their shells are as thin as a razor blade.
- 40) Razor-backed turtles can be found in the cold areas of Michigan and Minnesota.
- 41) Razor-backed turtles are commonly found in the southeastern United States.
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 43) Razor-backed turtles can retract their head and limbs into their shell for protection.
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- 46) Razor-backed turtles have sharp scales on their upper shell.
- 47) Why are they called razor-backed turtles?
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1. \_\_\_\_\_ 26. \_\_\_\_\_
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18. \_\_\_\_\_ 43. \_\_\_\_\_
19. \_\_\_\_\_ 44. \_\_\_\_\_
20. \_\_\_\_\_ 45. \_\_\_\_\_
21. \_\_\_\_\_ 46. \_\_\_\_\_
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24. \_\_\_\_\_
25. \_\_\_\_\_



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- |     |                |     |                      |
|-----|----------------|-----|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b>A</b>       | 26. | <b>opinion</b>       |
| 2.  | <b>D</b>       | 27. | <b>fact</b>          |
| 3.  | <b>C</b>       | 28. | <b>opinion</b>       |
| 4.  | <b>C</b>       | 29. | <b>fact</b>          |
| 5.  | <b>B</b>       | 30. | <b>fact</b>          |
| 6.  | <b>A</b>       | 31. | <b>opinion</b>       |
| 7.  | <b>A</b>       | 32. | <b>opinion</b>       |
| 8.  | <b>D</b>       | 33. | <b>true</b>          |
| 9.  | <b>A</b>       | 34. | <b>false</b>         |
| 10. | <b>C</b>       | 35. | <b>true</b>          |
| 11. | <b>Not</b>     | 36. | <b>false</b>         |
| 12. | <b>Would</b>   | 37. | <b>true</b>          |
| 13. | <b>Would</b>   | 38. | <b>false</b>         |
| 14. | <b>Would</b>   | 39. | <b>false</b>         |
| 15. | <b>Not</b>     | 40. | <b>false</b>         |
| 16. | <b>Not</b>     | 41. | <b>true</b>          |
| 17. | <b>Not</b>     | 42. | <b>true</b>          |
| 18. | <b>Not</b>     | 43. | <b>declarative</b>   |
| 19. | <b>Not</b>     | 44. | <b>interrogative</b> |
| 20. | <b>Would</b>   | 45. | <b>declarative</b>   |
| 21. | <b>Not</b>     | 46. | <b>declarative</b>   |
| 22. | <b>Would</b>   | 47. | <b>interrogative</b> |
| 23. | <b>fact</b>    | 48. | <b>interrogative</b> |
| 24. | <b>opinion</b> |     |                      |
| 25. | <b>fact</b>    |     |                      |



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What color is the shell of a razor-backed turtle? (paragraph 1)  
A. Brown or black  
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C. \_\_\_\_\_  
D. \_\_\_\_\_
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