

# ornate wood turtle care sheet



## habitat

If you house your Ornate Wood Turtle, a.k.a. Painted Wood Turtle in a terrarium, a minimum size of 75 gallons is required. Specifically made turtle terrariums are a better option than your typical reptile terrarium as they maintain proper ventilation and humidity better. The ideal substrate consists of three layers; the first is a layer of pea gravel, second you should have a layer that is 10-12" deep and is made up of ½ peat moss and ½ dampened sand. Finally, you should have a thin layer made up of cypress mulch. There should also be piles of hay, leaves, and sheets of bark to provide your turtle with hiding spaces that are safe and secure while he is on land. Also, give your turtle something like a paint tray or a cat litter pan filled with fresh, clean, filtered water. Ornate Wood Turtles are a semi-terrestrial turtle breed, so you will need to have an enclosure that will mimic the environment of a marshy pond turtle.



## lighting

Provide both a UVB light bulb positioned overhead and a 100-watt light bulb over the basking area.



## temperature

Temperature should range from 60 at night, 76 to 86F during the day. Provide a basking spot that is in the high 80sF to low 90sF. Water temperature at 75F. Humidity should be 60%.



## diet

Omnivorous, they enjoy eating redworms, earthworms, and crickets. They should also be provided with plenty of salad to boost their nutrition. This salad could consist of shredded vegetables and fruits, such as mango, banana, apple, cantaloupe, squash, zucchini, and kale.

## shopping list

- glass aquarium (75 - 80 gal)
- pea gravel, peat moss, sand and cypress mulch
- hay, leaves and sheets of bark
- paint tray or cat litter pan for water pond
- UVB light bulb
- 100-watt basking bulb
- redworms, earthworms and crickets
- squash, zucchini and kale
- mango, banana, apple and cantaloupe
- thermometer
- humidity gauge
- book about semi-terrestrial turtles

## fun facts

### average size

**females** 8 to 9 inches **males** 7 to 8 inches

### average life span

20 to 30 years

### misc. information

intelligent and personable

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