State Reptile

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PAINTED TURTLE

In 1995, the Michigan Legislature formally adopted the *Chrysemys picta*, or "painted turtle," as Michigan's State Reptile. The painted turtle is found throughout the entire state of Michigan. It ranges in size from four to ten inches in length. It has distinctive yellow and red markings on its head, limbs, and shell. It lives in shallow water and eats pond vegetation, insects, crayfish, and mollusks, including the zebra mussel. During the cold winter months, it buries itself in the mud and hibernates.

(Public Act 281 of 1995)