

The Painted Turtle— Colorado's State Reptile

Colorado has a state flag, a state seal, two state songs and many state symbols. Many kinds of wildlife are state symbols. The bighorn sheep is the state animal. The lark bunting is the state bird. The cutthroat trout is the state fish.

The newest state symbol is the western painted turtle. The painted turtle is the state reptile. How did the painted turtle get this honor? Fourth grade students asked the legislature to make the turtle the state reptile. The students said that the painted turtle is found everywhere in the state. It is also colorful—just like Colorado. The painted turtle has a dark olive shell with red markings on the edges. Its underside is yellow with bright red patterns. There are yellow or red lines on the painted turtle's head and legs.

Can other wildlife become state symbols? It's possible. There is still no state amphibian.

