

## **Freshwater Turtles - 60-Second – Captioned for the Visually Impaired**

MUSIC: "HINTERLAND WHO'S WHO" THEME

ANNOUNCER: (V.O.):

Don't let the word water fool you. Despite their name, not all freshwater turtles spend all of their time swimming.

*[Host sitting near a river]*

Even though they rely on wetlands, stream, lakes, and rivers for survival, they all need land as well. These long-living reptiles begin life on land where their buried eggs are incubated by the sun.

*[Host sitting near a river]*

Wood turtles spend their whole summer on land foraging for food. They and the Blanding's turtle can eat on land, while other freshwater turtles must be underwater to swallow.

*[Different turtles walking or eating]*

In Canada, all freshwater turtles spend the winter months hibernating under the ice. They can do this because they absorb oxygen from the water through their skin.

*[A turtle in the water]*

Sadly, many turtles are hit and killed by vehicles, especially females during nesting season. Habitat loss, climate change, and blooming predator populations also threaten our freshwater turtles.

You can help by watching for them on the road, and by protecting or restoring the natural areas they live in. And that's just a start.

*[Host with a freshwater turtle in her hand]*

To learn more about freshwater turtles, visit [hww.ca](http://hww.ca).