



Galveston Island State Park

TEXAS DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN

Malaclemys terrapin littoralis



TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

The diamondback terrapin was almost hunted to extinction in the early 1900s.



TEXAS DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN *Malaclemys terrapin littoralis*

The diamondback terrapin was nearly hunted to extinction in the early 1900s for its meat and use in soup.

The diamondback terrapin prefers salty or brackish water, but when their system gets too salty, they can excrete salt through tear ducts near their eyes.

Terrapins often bury themselves in the mud at night to stay warm and sometimes spend the winter this way.

Terrapins eat crabs, shrimp, bivalves, fish and insects.

Terrapins have unusually large back feet for swimming and digging.

Terrapins can live as long as 40 years.