

Forest & Plow

Box Turtle



Survival Skills

The name of the game is **Forest & Plow: Box Turtle Survival Skills**. We're going to learn about the many changes to Umstead State Park, through a Box Turtle's eyes!

In this game everyone is going to be North Carolina's state reptile, a BOX TURTLE!

There are a few rules of the game

1. **Do box turtles talk?** **NO**, so there will be no talking in this game unless I ask you a question.
2. **And how fast to box turtles move?** **Slowly!** So you must creep along slow during this game (demonstrate a slow turtle walk and ask if they understand)
3. **How do they get the name Box Turtle?** Because they are the only turtle that can **close itself up in a shell, like a "box"**. They do this to escape predators and they feel safe inside their strong shell. In this game you can crouch down and place your hands over your head to simulate being in your "box". If you hear me say "BOX UP" everyone get in their box. (practice a couple of times) When you come out of your shell look around carefully and poke your head out slowly to make sure it's safe

1600's

1600's:

- Herd of Bison stampede: BOX UP.
- Pack of wolves circling: BOX UP.
- Thunderstorm starts fire: BOX UP.

Remove 1 Forest.

Turtles move to new forests and find food to eat.

17000's

1700's:

- Trading path established (lay rope): BOX UP as Native Americans walk by.
- Native Americans start fire: BOX UP as fire passes through one forest.

Remove 1 forest.

Turtles move to new forests and find food to eat.

1800's

1800's:

- Settlers use saws to cut forests: BOX UP as they cut the trees.

Remove 6 forests.

- Land is plowed with horses: BOX UP.

Turtles crowd into remaining forests; it's tougher for turtles to find food.

19000's

1900's:

- In 1934 5,000 acres set aside for a State Park: Hikers, cars: BOX UP.

Add 8 forests inside park boundary.

- Outside of park chainsaws cut remaining forests for development: BOX UP.

Box turtles move to forests inside park and eat.

2000+

2000+:

Today, 2000+, what would you see inside the park that might scare you and make you BOX UP?

- Runners, bicycles, cars, roads, airplanes
- Dogs – that’s why dogs must be on leashes at all times in a state park
- Kids – some kids like to take turtles home as pets, this is ILLEGAL and very bad for the life of the turtle!

Congratulations! You have all proved your box turtle survival skills and lived through all the changes to the Umstead State Park Area. Now you all survived, but what hazards could have hurt real box turtles throughout the game? Bison, wolves, fires, being eaten, run over, plowed, tree falling, etc.