Living in this exhibit is Sheila, our Eastern Mud Turtle!

She's very tiny; can you see her? Mud turtles can grow to about 5 inches long, so we know Sheila is quite young.

Mud turtles live in freshwater, but can withstand a little bit of salt in the brackish waters of the salt marsh. They are semi-aquatic, meaning that they spend most of their lives in the water but can venture onto land for food and hibernate underground.

Small mud turtles like Sheila aren't very strong swimmers, so they walk along the bottom of the lake or marsh they live in. Depending on where they live, a mud turtles' shell can range from dark brown to olive green.

Sheila loves to hide among oyster shells or underneath the stump!

BHI CONSERVANCY