

Reptiles 1

Reptiles are vertebrates

This means that they have backbones. Animals with backbones are called vertebrates.

The small bones in the backbone are called vertebrae.

Vertebrae help the reptiles to bend easily.

How many reptiles have you seen?

Snake

Lizard

Gecko

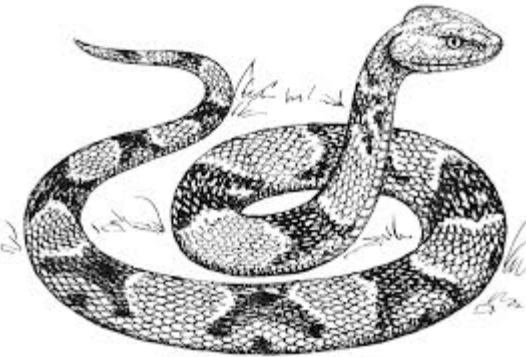
Turtle

Tortoise

Alligator

iguana

Chameleon



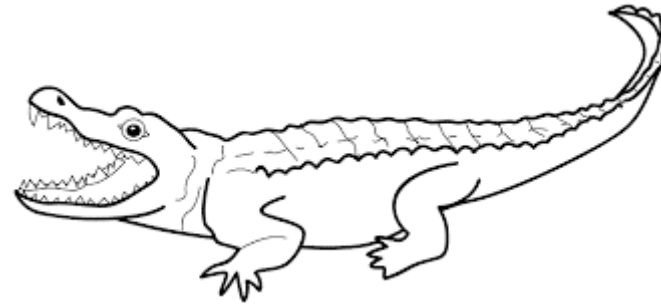
*Find out which reptiles live in your area. Write a list.
Are any of them dangerous?*

Reptiles 2

Reptiles are cold blooded

Their body temperatures change with the areas around them. A gecko that is too cold sits in the sun to warm up.

On a hot day, an alligator's body temperature gets very warm. It lies in the water to cool off.



*Why do reptiles need to stay in a warm place?
What does an alligator do when it gets too hot?*

Reptiles 3

Bodies of reptiles

Reptile bodies come in many shapes.

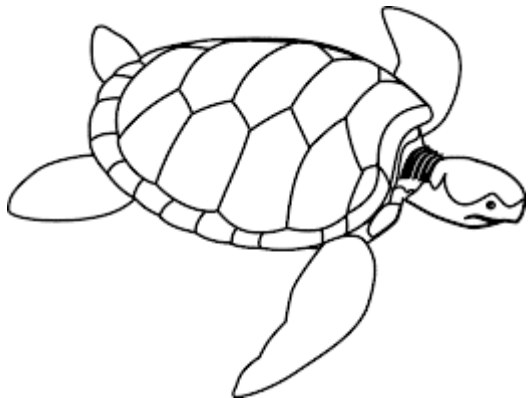
Tortoises and turtles have four legs and a short tail.
A hard shell covers their bodies.

Iguanas and other lizards have four legs and a long tail.

Crocodiles also have four legs and a tail.

Snakes are long reptiles without legs.

Draw two different kinds of reptiles and write about the differences in their bodies.



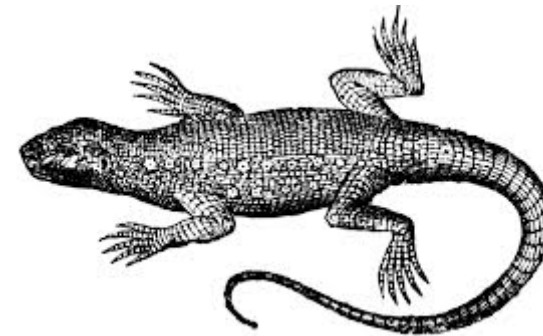
Reptiles 4

Reptiles have scales

All reptiles have hard, dry skin.

Reptiles are covered with folded pieces of hard skin called scales.

Most reptiles shed their skin. New scales grow under the old ones. The old scales fall off.



Draw a reptile showing the scales on its skin.

Reptiles 5

How reptiles breathe

Reptiles breathe air through lungs. Most reptiles have two lungs. Some snakes have only one lung. Reptiles breathe in air through their noses or mouths.

Reptiles open their mouth when they are too hot, to help them cool down.

Draw a reptile with its mouth open.



A frilled-neck lizard from Australia

Reptiles 6

What reptiles eat

Most reptiles eat meat. They eat mice, frogs and insects. Some snakes have venom in a sac in their head. When they bite their prey it becomes paralyzed.

Alligators and snakes catch prey with their teeth.

Some reptiles eat plants.

Iguanas live in central and south America. They eat flowers and fruit.

Green sea turtles eat seaweed and sea grasses.

Draw some meat eating reptiles and list their food.

Draw some plant eating reptiles and list their food.



Iguana

Reptiles 7

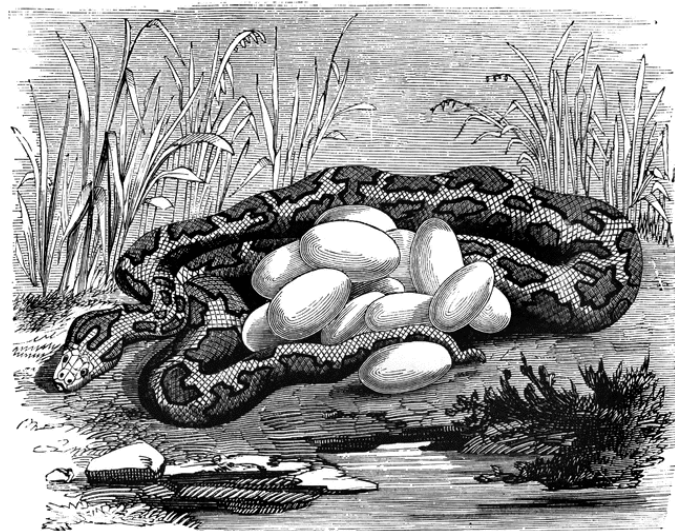
Eggs and young

Most reptiles hatch from eggs.
Turtle and alligator eggs have hard shells.
Turtles come ashore to lay their eggs. When the babies hatch they make walk to the sea. Many get eaten by birds.

Snake and lizard eggs are soft.
Some snakes and lizards are born live. Baby snakes must hunt for food as soon as they are born.

What is the difference between snake's eggs and turtle's eggs?

What are the dangers for young turtles?



Reptiles 8

The Komodo Dragon

Komodo dragons are the largest living lizards in the world. They have flat heads, bowed legs and long, thick tails. Komodos are very rare and are found in the wild only on five islands of Indonesia. One of these islands is called Komodo.

Males can grow to 3 meters in length. Females grow to 1.8 metres.

Komodos come in a variety of colors, including blue, orange, green and grey. Their skin is rough and has bony plates. They have long claws and a large, strong tail.

Komodos have good vision; they can see objects as far away as 300 metres. They are also fast. They can run for short distances up to 20 kph

They have a good sense of smell. This helps them to hunt. They are such fierce hunters they can eat very large prey, such as large water buffalo, deer, pigs and even humans. They will also eat smaller dragons. They can eat 80 percent of their body weight in one feeding

Write five facts about the Komodo dragon.

