

# REPTILES



## Reptiles:

- have a backbone
- are cold-blooded
- have scaly skin
- breathe with lungs
- hatch from eggs

# SUPER SCALY REPTILES

Reptiles can be found in many different habitats all around the world. They live on land and in water. Reptiles are cold-blooded which means they stay at the same temperature as the air or water around them. If a reptile gets cold, you might see one sitting in the sun to warm up. On the other hand, if they get too warm, they will look for a shady spot to cool off.

Reptiles have hundreds of scales that cover their skin. Scales protect the animal by controlling how much water they lose through their skin. This special adaptation means that reptiles can live in dry places such as the desert. Reptiles shed their skin several times as they grow bigger and bigger. This is called molting.

These cold-blooded creatures are carnivores, eating a huge meal whenever they get the chance. Then they might go without food for several days or weeks.

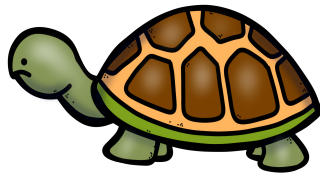
All reptiles:

- have a backbone
- are cold-blooded
- have scaly skin
- breathe with lungs
- hatch from eggs

Most reptiles lay eggs. When their babies hatch, they will look just like their parents only smaller. As they grow, they will shed their skin or molt.

There are four main groups of reptiles:

1. Snakes and Lizards
2. Crocodiles
3. Tortoises
4. Tuataras



Let's look at each group more closely.

## Snakes and lizards:

There are thousands of different types of lizards. A lizard's body is covered in tiny scales. Lizards have to move lightning fast to catch their prey and love to snack on insects. Snakes, like lizards, live in all types of climates. Snakes have no arms or legs. Instead, they slither quickly along the ground.

## Tortoise Family:

What's the difference between a tortoise and a turtle? Turtles live in the water and tortoises live on land. Both have a large bony shell covers their bodies to protect them from predators. Their heavy shells slow them down causing them to walk slowly. Tortoises, unlike other reptiles, are herbivores and spend most of the day eating plants.

## Crocodiles:

Crocodiles and alligators live in the water. These giant reptiles have a huge appetite often eating animals much bigger than themselves. Then they will go without food for days or even weeks.

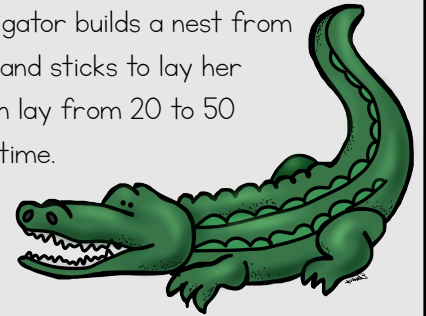
## Tuataras:

It's rare to see a Tuatara. This type of reptile has been around for millions of years but today they only live on islands around New Zealand. Amazingly, they can live to be 100 years old.

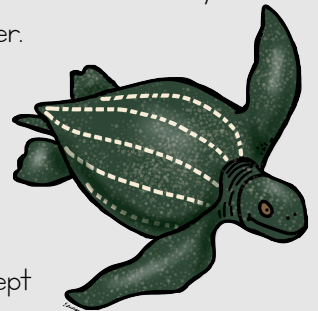
## EXAMPLES:

The American alligator lives near freshwater sources in the southeastern United States.

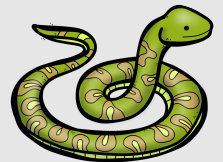
A mother alligator builds a nest from mud, plants, and sticks to lay her eggs. She can lay from 20 to 50 eggs at one time.



Leatherbacks are the largest turtles on Earth. They can grow to be more than 2,000 pounds. Their unique shell is different from other turtles because it is not hard and bony. Instead it's flexible like leather.



Snakes are found on every continent except Antarctica. They have flexible jaws that allows them to swallow their prey whole.



Frilled lizards live in northern Australia and New Guinea. When it feels threatened, it will rise up on its hind legs and open an extra skin flap that encircles its head.

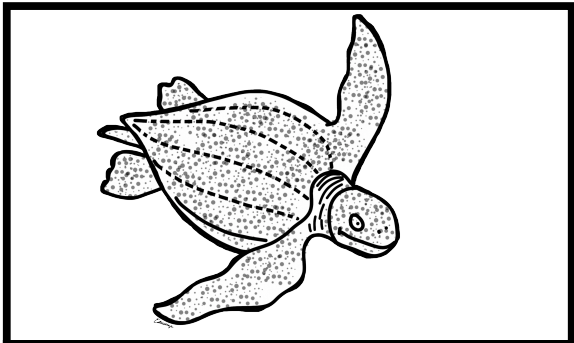


This fascinating creature spends most of its life in the trees. It is not poisonous and eats mainly insects, spiders, and other invertebrates.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Super Scaly Reptiles

Directions: Identify and describe each of the reptiles below.

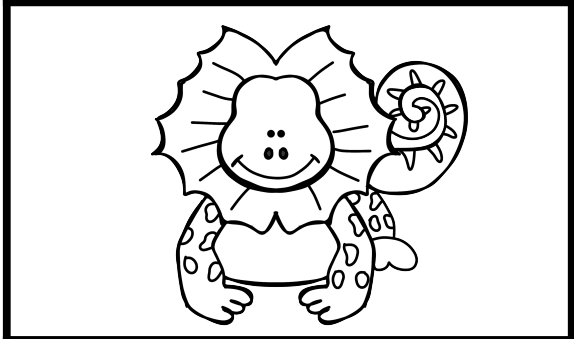


---

---

---

---

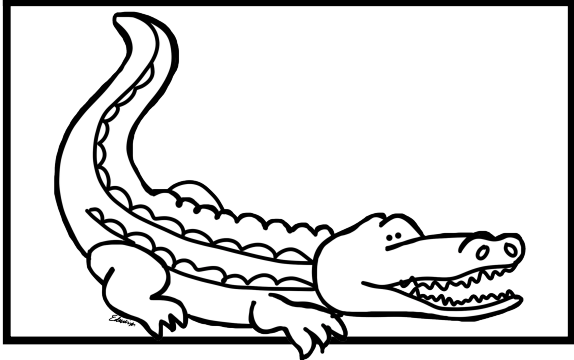


---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

Name the five characteristics of all reptiles:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

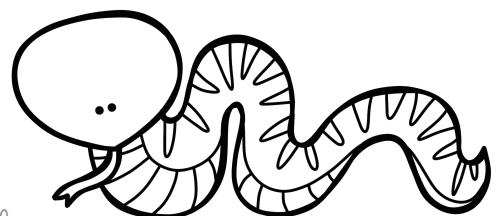
How do scales help reptiles?

---

---

---

---



# REPTILES

Circle all the reptiles below:

**ladybug**      **snakes**

**lizard**      **duck**

**turtle**      **turtle**

**alligator**      **dolphin**

**crocodile**      **chicken**

**lions**      **frogs**

Tell one interesting fact  
you learned about them:

---

---

---

---

---

What do reptiles eat?

---

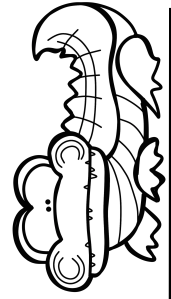
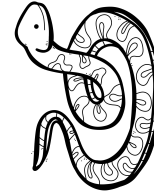
---

---

---

---

Name the reptiles below:



Name five  
characteristics of  
all reptiles:



1.      2.      3.      4.      5.

How do reptiles keep from  
getting too hot or too cold?

---

---

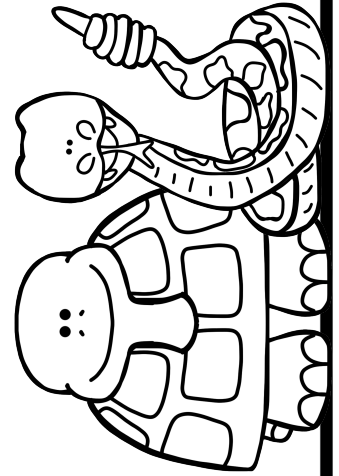
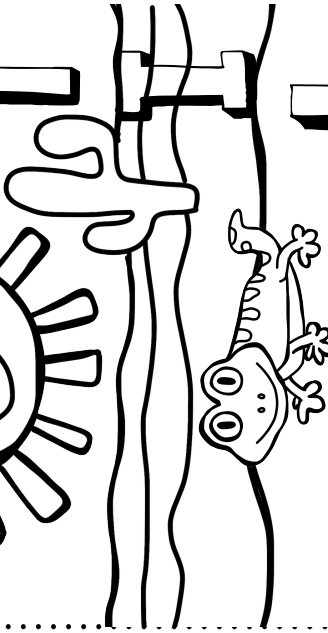
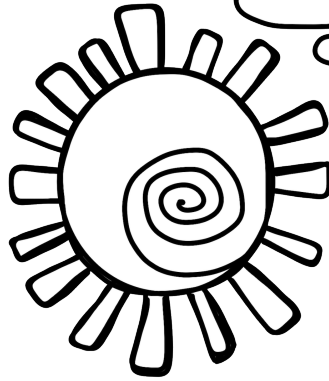
---

---

---



# REPTILES



Decide if each statement below is true or false:

1. Reptiles have thick scaly skin.

2. Babies look just like their parents only smaller.

3. Turtles live on land and tortoises live in the water.

4. Reptiles are warm-blooded.

5. As they grow, they shed their skin or molt.

6. It's rare to see a Tuatara.

Compare and contrast lizards to tortoises using the Venn Diagram.

