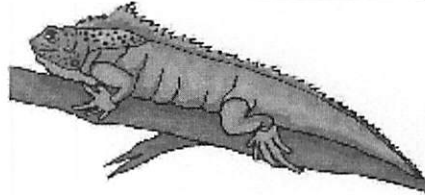


# Reptiles



<sup>1</sup> Reptiles are cold-blooded animals. They have dry skin with scales. Indeed, what makes reptiles different from other animals is their dry, tough skin. Snakes, turtles, and crocodiles are all examples of reptiles.



<sup>2</sup> There are over 6000 species of reptiles. They can be divided into five groups - turtles and tortoises, lizards, snakes, crocodilians, and tuataras. What is the difference between turtles and tortoises? Turtles live in water and have lighter, flatter shells. Tortoises live entirely on land and have strong, heavy shells.

<sup>3</sup> Lizards have long, slender bodies with tails. The largest lizard on earth is the Komodo dragon. Komodo dragons can only be found on four small islands in Indonesia. They can be as long as 10 feet and as heavy as 365 pounds! Other lizards include geckos, iguanas, and chameleons.

<sup>4</sup> Snakes have long, forked tongues flicking in and out of their mouths repeatedly to "sample" the air and to detect prey. Snakes can live without eating anything for months or even up to a year! When they eat, snakes swallow their prey in whole. Many snakes have very flexible jaws, and they can swallow animals much larger than their own heads. Most snakes are harmless but some are venomous. For example, the king cobra is the world's longest poisonous snake. King cobras always rear up and spread their hood before attacking.

<sup>5</sup> Crocodilians include crocodiles and alligators. They spend most of their time in water. They are great swimmers even though they can weigh more than a ton! Their eyes and nostrils are located on top of their heads. As a result, they can see and breathe while the rest of their bodies are under water. They can swim this way without alerting their prey. How can we tell crocodiles from alligators? Alligators have wide, flat heads with rounded snouts. Crocodiles have more pointed snouts.

<sup>6</sup> There are only two species of tuataras. Both of them are found in New Zealand. Tuataras and lizards look very much alike. Scientists believe that tuataras have been on earth for over 225 million years. Hence, they are the oldest living reptiles!

<sup>7</sup> Some reptiles give birth to live young but all others lay eggs. Reptile eggs are waterproof and are laid on land. Reptiles usually leave their eggs unattended. After hatching, baby reptiles are fully developed and are ready to live independently. Because baby reptiles are easy prey for many animals, a lot of them do not survive for more than a year. Those that survive have a long life span. For example, green sea turtles can live up to 80 years of age.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Reptiles

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Which of the following best describes reptiles?<br><input type="radio"/> A Salamanders are reptiles.<br><input type="radio"/> B Most reptiles lay eggs in water.<br><input type="radio"/> C Reptiles are cold-blooded animals.<br><input type="radio"/> D Reptiles have smooth skin. | 2. Crocodiles have rounded snouts.<br><input type="radio"/> A True<br><input type="radio"/> B False   |
| 3. Geckos are reptiles.<br><input type="radio"/> A True<br><input type="radio"/> B False  | 4. Turtles live in water and tortoises live on land.<br><input type="radio"/> A True<br><input type="radio"/> B False   |
| 5. What is the largest lizard?<br><input type="radio"/> A Tuataras<br><input type="radio"/> B Crocodiles<br><input type="radio"/> C Chameleons<br><input type="radio"/> D Komodo dragons  | 6. Where can we find tuataras?<br><input type="radio"/> A North America<br><input type="radio"/> B New Zealand<br><input type="radio"/> C Islands of Indonesia<br><input type="radio"/> D Africa  |
| 7. Which of the following animals are <b><u>not</u></b> reptiles?<br><input type="radio"/> A Iguanas<br><input type="radio"/> B Alligators<br><input type="radio"/> C Green sea turtles<br><input type="radio"/> D Snails   | 8. Which of the following statements is true about reptiles?<br><input type="radio"/> A Pythons are the world's longest poisonous snakes.<br><input type="radio"/> B Snakes can live without eating anything for months.<br><input type="radio"/> C Most reptile mothers guard their nest and nourish their babies.<br><input type="radio"/> D Turtles have strong, heavy shells. |

## Reptiles - Answer Key

- 1 ☒ C Reptiles are cold-blooded animals.
- 2 ☒ B False
- 3 ☒ A True
- 4 ☒ A True
- 5 ☒ D Komodo dragons
- 6 ☒ B New Zealand
- 7 ☒ D Snails
- 8 ☒ B Snakes can live without eating anything for months.