

Grades: 2-4

Objectives: Students will read and interpret informational text, practice their note-taking strategy while becoming familiar with different types of reptiles and their characteristics.

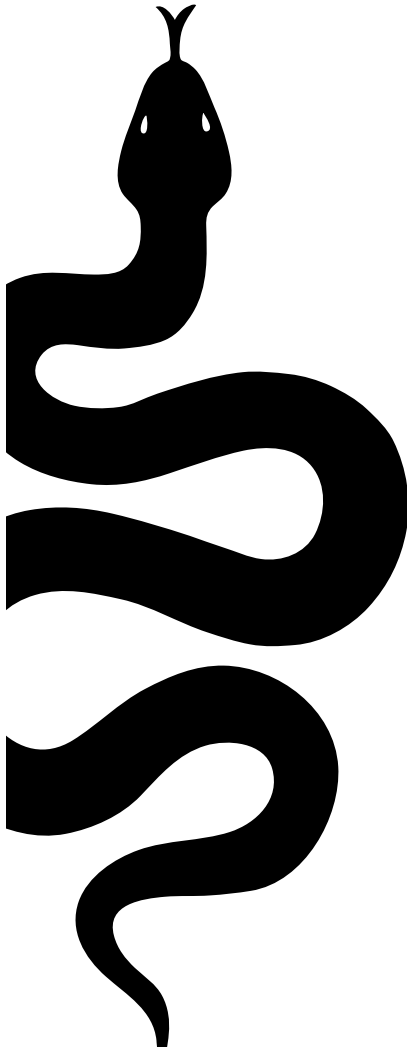
Sources: Britannica Kids and CILC Maker Space

What's Inside?

- nonfiction reading about reptiles
- graphic note organizer

REPTILES

This text is adapted for early elementary readers from an original essay at <https://kids.britannica.com>



What Is a Reptile?

A reptile is an air-breathing animal that has scales instead of hair or feathers. Today there are about 6,000 species, or types, of living reptile. They include snakes, lizards, turtles, alligators, and crocodiles.

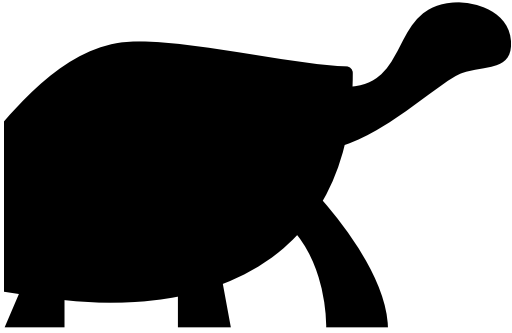
Where Do Reptiles Live?

Reptiles are found all over the world, except in very cold areas. The greatest number and variety are in the hot, humid tropics. Snakes and lizards live in many different kinds of places. They can live on land, in trees, in underground tunnels, or in water. Most turtles live in water but spend some time on land. Tortoises live only on land. Alligators and crocodiles spend most of their time in water, but they can make short trips on land.

What Is Special about Reptiles?

Reptiles are vertebrates, or animals with a backbone. Except for snakes, most reptiles have four limbs. Reptiles vary greatly in size. Some snakes and lizards are less than 2 inches long. The largest crocodiles, pythons, and anacondas can grow to more than 30 feet long.



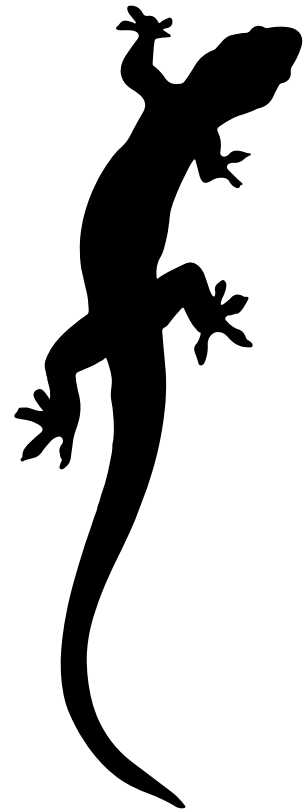


Reptiles have dry skin that is covered with scales. Scales are hardened folds of the upper layer of skin. The scales of many lizards overlap. They are arranged side by side in snakes and alligators and crocodiles. Scales also cover the bony shells of turtles.

Reptiles are cold-blooded animals. This means that their body temperature changes when the temperature around them changes. Reptiles warm or cool themselves by moving to warmer or cooler places.

Most reptiles are meat eaters. They eat many kinds of animals, including insects, birds, frogs, mice, and fish. A few lizards and turtles eat only plants.

Most reptiles lay eggs. The number of eggs laid differs among reptile species. Some lay just one egg. Others can lay up to 200. It usually takes about 60 to 105 days for the eggs to hatch. Certain snakes and lizards give birth to live young.



Britannica Kids

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/reptile/353708>
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