

Getting to Know Reptiles

What is a Reptile?

Reptiles are vertebrates with scaly skin that keeps their body from drying out. They are ectotherms, which means they have to sit in the sun to keep warm or go into the shade to cool down. If they are cold long enough they go into hibernation.

There are four types of reptiles: turtles and tortoises; lizards and snakes; crocodiles and alligators; and the tuatara (the only species left from an ancient group of reptiles that goes back to the dinosaurs). There are more than 6,500 known reptiles.

They can be as small as 3/4 of an inch to 33 feet long. Tortoises have the longest life span and can live up to 150 years!

They live in both the water and on the land. They can be found all over the world except polar ice and tundra.

Most reptiles make nests or dig holes to lay their eggs in. Some then stay to guard the nest and get the hatchlings started in life but most mother reptiles leave the nest once the eggs are laid. The hatchlings are independent from the start, and must find their own food and shelter. When they're born, the babies look like little versions of adults.

Unscramble the Reptiles

Can you unscramble these words to find out what these reptiles are?

UTRTLLE _____
PETILRE _____
ZLRIAD _____
NASKE _____
LALITGAOR _____
RAUTATA _____

Making Reptile Eggs

What You Need:

- 1 cup of flour
- 1 cup used coffee grinds
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1/4 cup sand
- 3/4 cup water



What to Do:

1. Mix all dry ingredients together. Slowly add water and knead until mixture is consistency of bread dough.
2. Break off piece of dough and roll into ball (bigger than object you would like to hide inside). Make a hole in center of ball and fill with treasure, seal with extra dough.
3. Let treasure air dry for 2-3 days or until hard, or bake on cookie sheet in 150 degree oven for 15-20 minutes.

How Long is That Snake?

What You Need:

- Balls of yarn in a variety of colors
- Yardsticks
- List of snake lengths

What to Do:

Measure out the length of different kinds of snakes with yarn. You can use different color yarn for each snake to see the difference.

Act Like a Chameleon Game

Chameleons are known for being able to blend with their environment. You can be a chameleon in reverse by finding colors in the classroom that match your clothes.

Those wearing the same color as the rug can lay down there, those wearing the same color as the wall can stand against it, people wearing the color of the couch can sit on it, etc.

Leaping Lizards Treat

What You Need:

- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 12 ounces marshmallows
- 4 drops green food coloring
- 4 cups Rice Krispies
- Pam
- Raisins



What to Do:

1. In a large saucepan heat the peanut butter with marshmallows over low heat until melted. If there are peanut allergies, the peanut butter can be omitted.
2. Add green food coloring.
3. Pour in the cereal and stir quickly.
4. Spray 8" pan with Pam then pour contents into pan. Allow to cool in fridge. Cut into long thin strips, about 1" X 4".
6. Cut each raisin in half and stick on one end of each strip to make the lizard's eyes.

Reptile Hidden Word Search

I C L O V A E R R E E S
 P T H I N L D O E K L K
 S I Z A I O T R A Q O I
 A R U T M A H N A L N N
 E G R I G E S T E Z A K
 I C W I O E L A Y W I A
 H N L K L G L E Q P X L
 Y L C T A N A C O N D A
 A E T E L T R U T N A H
 G A E L I D O C O R C B
 R E U R R A L E Y B B O
 S X Z F U B F K S D V A

ALLIGATOR
 ANACONDA
 ANOLE
 CHAMELEON
 CROCODILE
 GECKO

IGUANA
 LIZARD
 PYTHON
 RATTLESNAKE
 SKINK
 TURTLE

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Paper Plate Snake

What You Need:

- Paper plate
- Markers or paint
- Red construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- String or yarn



What to Do:

1. Paint or color a paper plate the color you want your snake.
2. Cut the paper plate in a spiral like in the picture. You may want to draw the lines before cutting it out.
3. Use other colors to decorate your snake. Be sure to add eyes and glue on a red tongue. Allow to dry completely.
4. Make a small hole in the head (or tail) and put the yarn or string through it then tie a knot. Hang from the ceiling.



Reptile Diorama

What You Need:

- Shoebox
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Small plastic or rubber toys -- trees, reptiles, etc.



What to Do:

1. Choose a reptile. Read about the habitat of the reptile you've chosen.
2. Create a diorama of the habitat of your reptile using a variety of papers, clay, toys and other items in a shoebox.

Which Would You Choose?

Ask your parents, neighbors, or friends which reptile would make the best pet. Make a list of several possible answers. Tally the results of poll and make a graph.