

Reptiles

All reptiles breathe air. They have scales on their skin, ear holes and dry skin. They have skeletons on the inside of their bodies and they lay eggs.

Where do reptiles live?

Most reptiles live on land but turtles, crocodiles and some snakes live in water.

What do reptiles eat?

Most reptiles are carnivores and swallow their prey whole. They use their teeth to hold the prey only. Poisonous snakes use their fangs to kill their prey. Lizards mostly eat small invertebrates (insects). Snakes eat tiny mammals. Iguanas mostly eat plants. They are herbivores.

Examples of reptiles

Tortoises

A tortoise is a reptile which lives on land. They have a shell to protect them from predators. They move slowly and eat vegetation.

Tortoises have extremely strong mouths but no teeth. They have good all round vision and a very good sense of smell.



Snakes

There are around 3000 different species of snake. Some species of snake, such as cobras and black mambas use venom to hunt and kill their prey. Snakes are carnivores. They don't have eyelids. Snakes can't bite food so they swallow it whole. They have flexible jaws which allow them to eat prey bigger than their head. Snakes are found on every continent of the world except Antarctica. Snakes shed their skin a number of times a year.

Crocodiles

Crocodiles have sharp teeth. They can survive for a long time without food most crocodiles live in fresh water rivers and lakes but some live in salt water. Crocodiles eat a variety of fish, birds and other animals. The saltwater crocodile is the largest species of crocodile. They are fast over short distances.



Interesting facts

- The female tortoise is usually larger than the male tortoise.
- The male tortoise has a longer tail than that of the female.
- Tortoises hibernate in the winter.