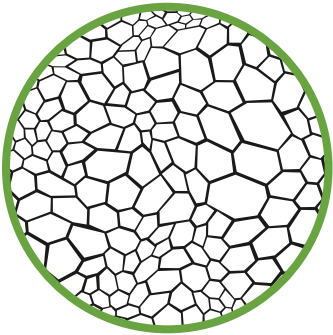


What Is a Reptile?

Reptiles are a group of animals that includes lizards, turtles, snakes, and crocodilians (like alligators). Reptiles come in all shapes and sizes, but all reptiles are the same in some ways. What do all reptiles have in common?



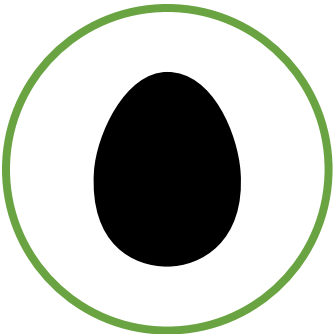
Scales

Reptiles have dry scales covering their entire bodies. Scales help protect them from predators and their environment. Reptile scales can be almost any color you can think of: red, blue, green, purple, brown, black, and even pink! They can also be different textures, from very smooth to bumpy and rough.



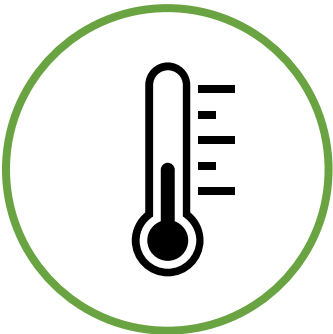
Lungs

Reptiles breathe air through their lungs. All reptiles have at least one lung. The oxygen that they get from the air moves through their body in their blood and helps keep their organs healthy. Other animals, such as fish and insects, do not use lungs to breathe.



Eggs

Many reptiles lay eggs. Reptiles need their eggs to stay dry, so they lay their eggs on land. Some reptiles will bury their eggs in sand or dirt to keep them safe. Crocodilians will lay their eggs under a pile of plants to help keep the eggs warm. However, some snakes and lizards give birth to live young!



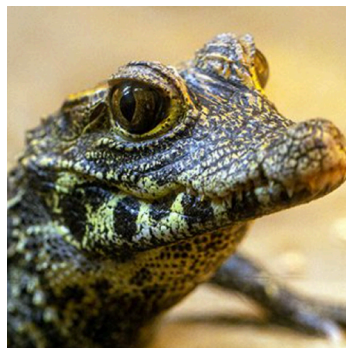
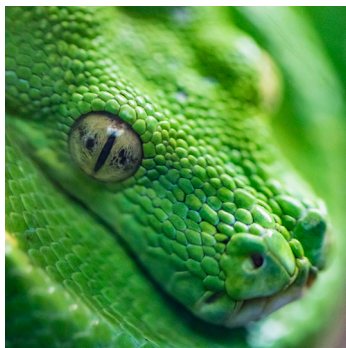
Cold-blooded

Reptiles are cold-blooded, which means they get their body heat from their environment. When it is cold, reptiles become slower because their body temperature goes down, making them less active. When it is hot, reptiles move faster because their body temperature gets warmer. On a sunny day, reptiles can go in the shade to cool down, or bask in the sun to feel warmer. This helps reptiles maintain a balanced body temperature.

What Is a Reptile?

Each sentence is missing a word. Match each sentence to the correct word.

Sentence	Word
1. All reptiles have _____ covering their bodies.	A. cold
2. Reptiles are _____-blooded and need to use the sun to keep them warm.	B. eggs
3. Reptiles are able to breathe thanks to their _____.	C. scales
4. Most baby reptiles grow inside of _____.	D. dry
5. Unlike some other types of animals, reptiles need their eggs to stay _____, so they lay them on land.	E. lungs



Answers: 1.: C scales; 2.: A. cold; 3.: E. lungs; 4.: B. eggs; 5.: D. dry.