

Leapin' Lizards

And other reptiles

Reptiles are 4 legged, or descended from 4 legged, vertebrates. That means they have an internal skeleton and spine.

Most reptiles lay, generally, soft eggs.

Reptiles have dry scaly skins or plates.

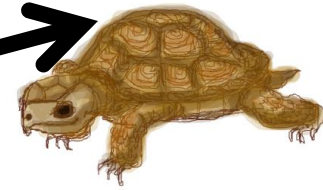
Reptiles are cold blooded — their temperature is close to the temperature outside.



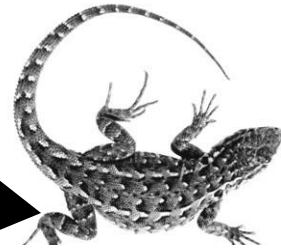
- Reptiles have a spine and either have 4 legs or are descended from creatures with 4 legs. Most reptiles lay eggs. Reptiles have scales. Most are cold blooded.

- There are 4 kinds of Texas reptiles:

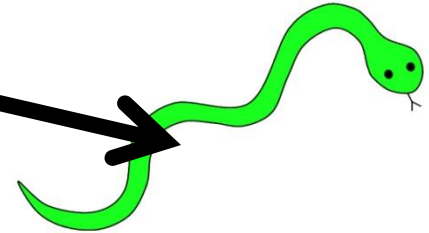
- Turtles have a bony shell derived from their pelvis, vertebrae and rib bones.



- Lizards have feet and external ears.



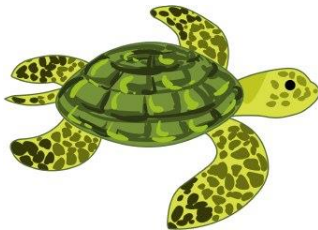
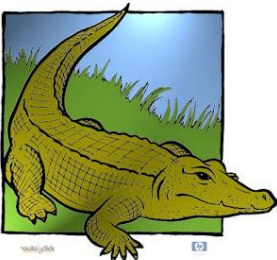
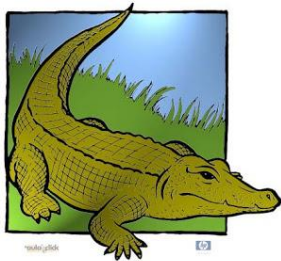
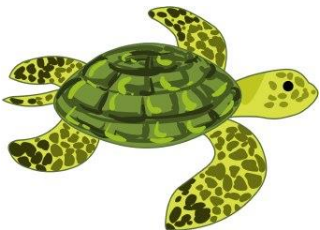
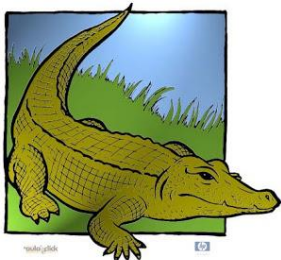
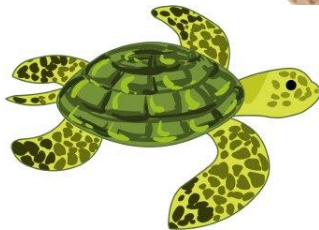
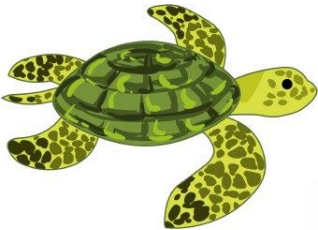
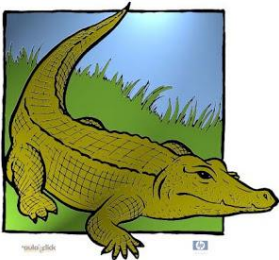
- Snakes are long and lack legs, external eyelids or ears. Snake skeletons are mainly backbone and ribs.



- Crocodiles and alligators are semi-aquatic with long flat snouts and compressed tails and peglike teeth. Their tails are squeezed sideways, and their eyes and ears are on the top of their heads.



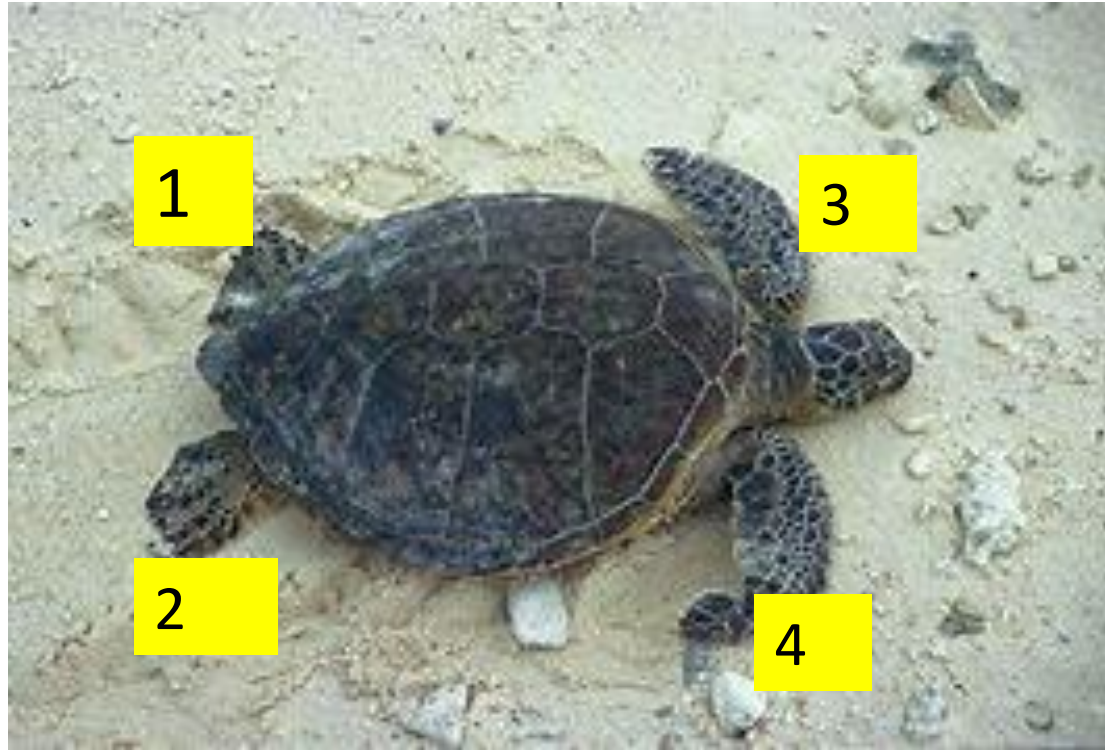
Can you sort the reptiles into 4 groups?



The four major kinds of reptiles are: lizards, lizard worms and snakes; tortoises and turtles; crocodiles, gharials, alligators and caimans; and tuataras. Dinosaurs were reptiles. Did you know that birds and mammals are reptiles in a way!



Turtles, alligators, crocodiles and lizards have 4 legs.



Reptiles are cold blooded—when it's hot they're hot and when it's cold, they're cold.



Reptiles use color in many ways.

The gentle Milk Snake looks like the dangerous Coral Snake to scare away predators.

Chameleons change color to assert dominance, attract mates, communicate emotions and display pregnancy.



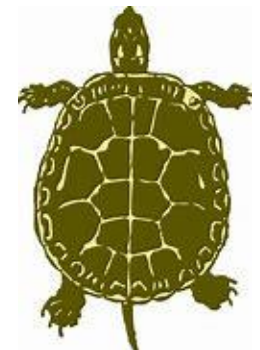
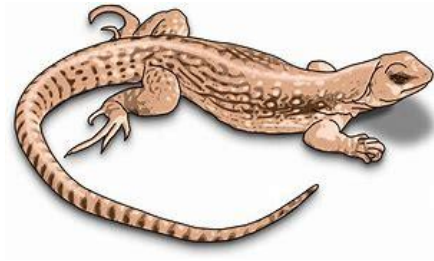
Chameleons change colors to regulate temperature, show dominance or aggression, and attract mates. Their skin is transparent and has multiple layers of chromatophores (cells containing pigments or colors) for different colors and they expand or relax these to change color.

- Melanophores=brown
- Iridophores=blue
- Xanthophores=yellow
- Erythrophores=red



Lizards and other reptiles may also develop colors to blend into their environments—we call this camouflage. You can have a Camouflage Adventure and find places inside or outside your house to hide these reptiles, so they blend into the background.

Where can you find places to hide these reptiles?



Lizards Near San Antonio:

- Texas spiny lizard
- Rosebelly lizards
- green anole
- Prairie lizard
- Little brown skink
- Texas alligator lizard
- Whiptails
- House gecko
- Texas horned lizard

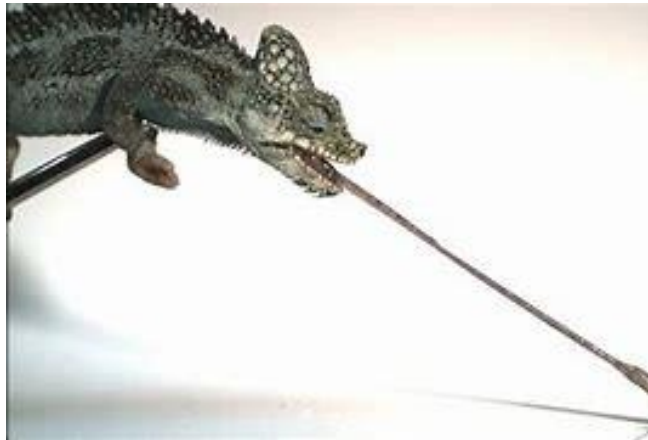




Lizards can lose their tails to distract, and then escape, from predators. This is called autotomy. A new tail may grow but it's not as useful. The tail has a break or fracture plane connected by tiny hairs like the ones on the toes. When bitten, the lizard can release the adhesive force (sticking together) and drop the tail.



Chameleons have long, fast sticky tongues to catch prey and to detect smells.



All lizards have 5 toes—4th is longest for prehension. Lizards have claws and some have toe pads.

Geckos have setae—tiny hairs broken up into spatulae—tinier hairs—on their fat toes and the hairs interact with a surface with an attractive (van der Waals) force. Depending on the angle, the hairs allow the gecko to cling, release and land.



Fingerplay

Little lizard in the tree, (standing tall)

In the sun so happily-- (fist up high)

Changing colors on his skin,
(rubbing skin on arm)

So he's able to blend in! (hand sweeping over body)



You can sing *Did You Ever See a Lizard to Have You Ever Seen a Lassie.*

Have you ever seen a lizard, a lizard, a lizard? (hand to eyes)

Have you ever seen a lizard all dressed up in green? (hand sweeping up from feet to head)

With green eyes, and green nose, (pointing to body parts)

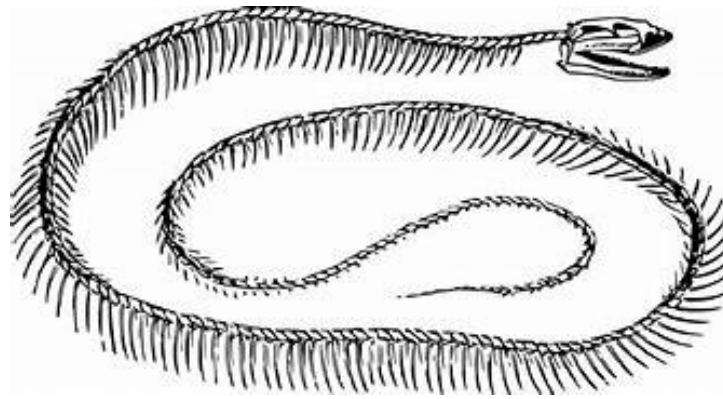
And green legs and green toes.

Have you ever seen a lizard all dressed up in green? (pointing to eyes)

Growing Up WILD



Snakes' skeletons are mainly backbones (vertebrae) and ribs. Scientists think that snakes became burrowing creatures and had no use for arms and legs



You can sing the snake song to the tune of *London Bridge*.

All the snakes are slithering, (hand moving in S motion)
slithering, slithering.

All the snakes are slithering,
across the grass.

All the snakes make a hiss, (hissing)
makes a hiss, make a hiss.

All the snakes make a hiss,
and smile at the sun.



All snakes smell with their tongues, (sticking tongue out)
With their tongues, with their tongues.

All snakes smell with their tongues,
and they can smell you!



<http://www.popsoci.com/science/article/2013-06/not-fable-heres-how-turtle-got-its-shell>

Over time, early forms of turtles' pelvis, vertebrate and other bones flattened and curved together to form the shell



You can sing the turtle song to the tune of *On Top of Old Smokey*.

Some turtles swim over the ocean. (swimming arms)

Some turtles swim over the sea.

Some turtles grow very big (hands way out to sides)

As big as you and me. (pointing out and to chest)



Turtles, turtles, swimming here and there. (swimming arms)

Turtles, turtles, turtles everywhere. (hands moving all around)

Turtles are mainly aquatic, with feet adapted for swimming with flippers. They are omnivores eating plants and water animals. Their shells are streamlined.



Tortoises live on land and have fat flat feet like elephants. They are mainly herbivores, eating plants. Their shells are domed.



Terrapins live in brackish (salty mix of fresh and salt water) waters, swamps or wetlands.



Do you know the difference between alligators and crocodiles?

Alligator—flat wide U-shaped snout, located USA, fresh water, teeth may not show, shorter, darker, faster less aggressive

Crocodile—pointed V-shaped snout, located worldwide, salty water, teeth show, longer, lighter, slow, more aggressive





LEAPIN' LIZARDS

Special adaptations



Lizard feet can cling with hair.



They change colors 'til they match.



Their tongues are long and fast.,



And tails that can detach!

Anatole the Anole

You can read the story or watch
it as a slideshow.

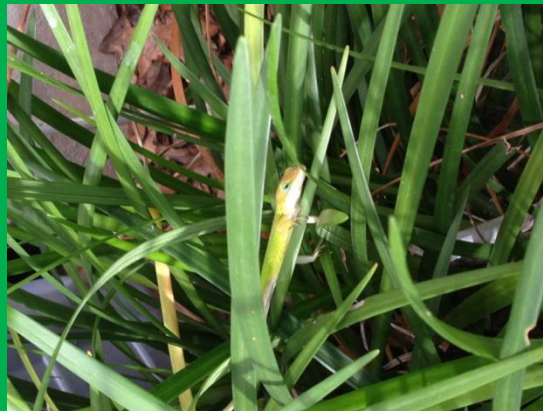


Anatole the Anole

Anatole the anole in the palm would turn green.....



You can read the story or watch it as a slideshow.



So he matched the green leaves, and never was seen.



He puffed pink on the fence



And black on the pot





Climbed up on the roof



To find the right spot!



Where are you--peek-a-boo!



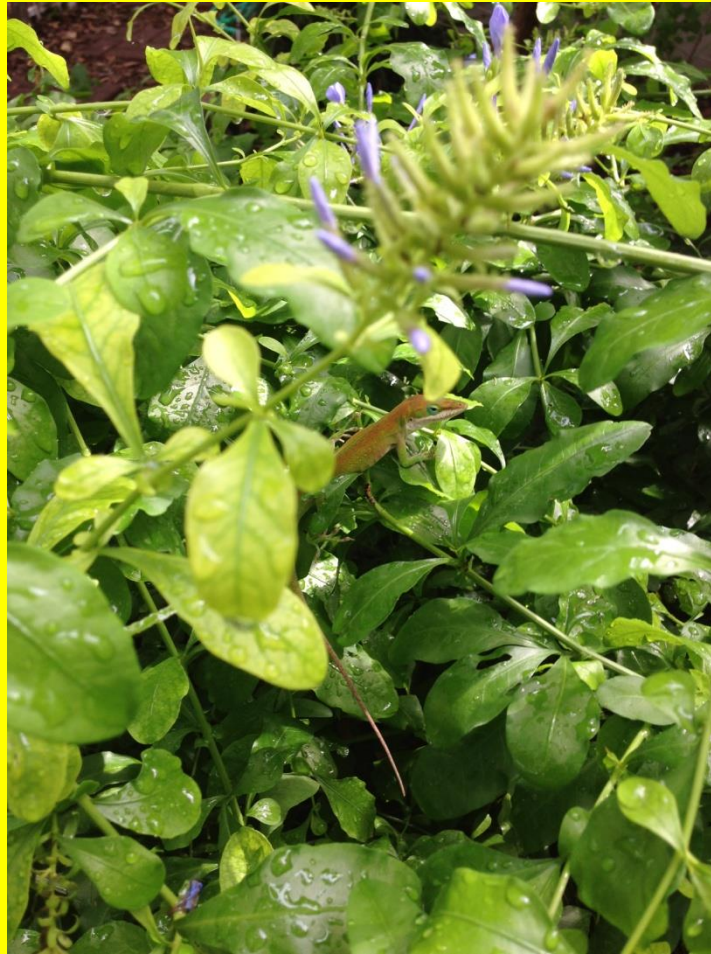
Anatole liked flowers



And he liked the view



To sun in the foliage

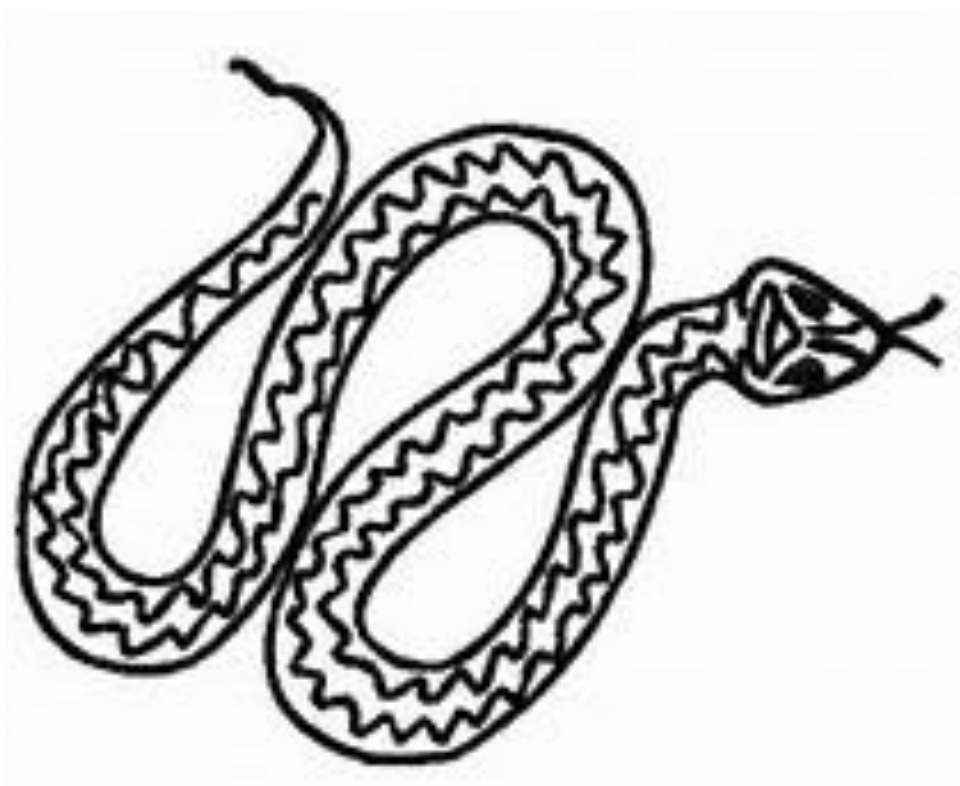


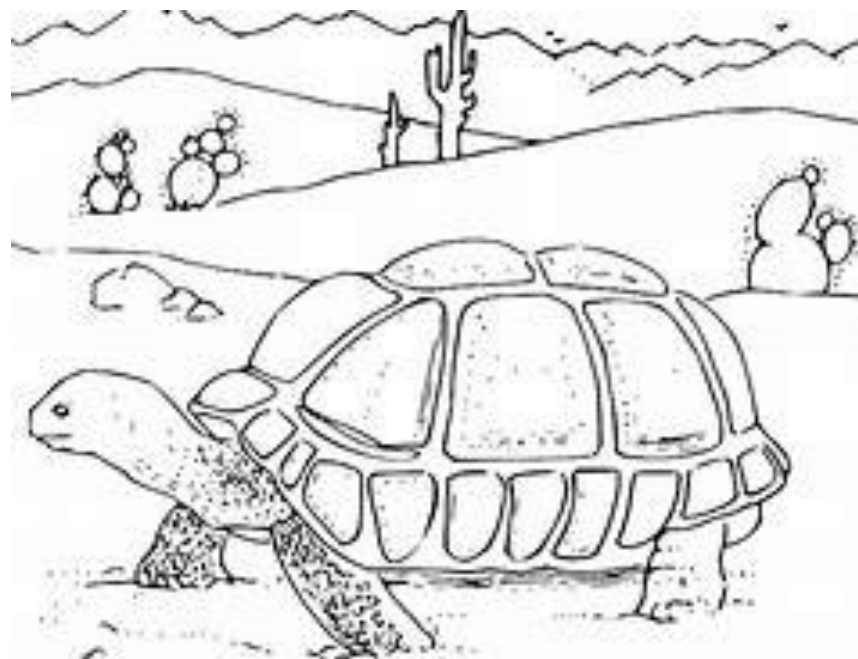
And more peek-a-boo!

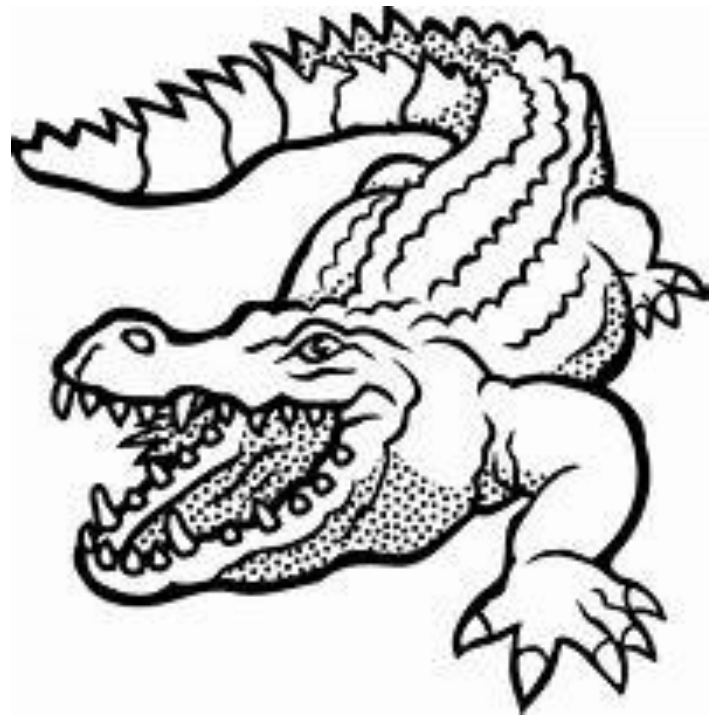


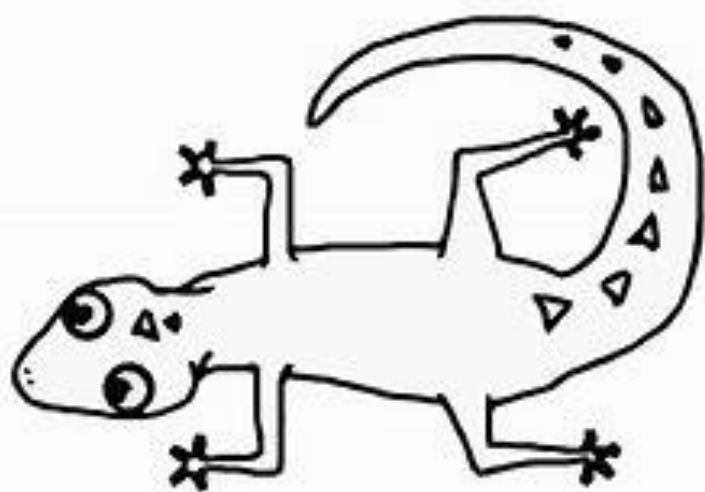
You can be a reptile artist. Which reptile will you decorate? What could you use for scales or shell? Sticky dots or sequins or waxed paper or foil? Now what can you glue under or over you reptile to hide them in their environment?











You can make a mini-book!

- Fold the paper in half
- Then in half again.

