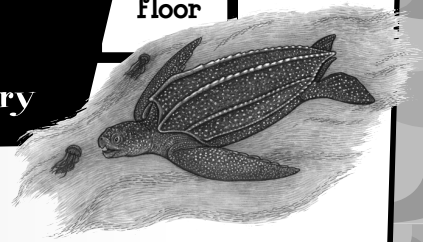




# DISCOVER REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

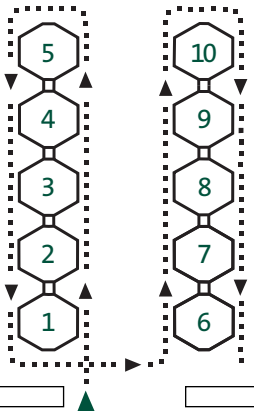
at the American Museum of Natural History

3rd floor



## Reptiles

Reptiles lay their eggs on land. Their eggs have hard shells which provide the babies with a wet and safe environment.



Start here

### FLOOR MAP

Reptiles and Amphibians Hall  
Follow this map round the Hall

Look for the numbers on the display cases

**5** The covering on most turtles' shells is hard and bony, like your fingernails. Leatherbacks have soft, leathery shells. **What features help them to live and move in water?**

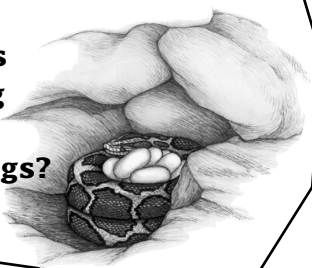
**HINT** Compare the leatherback's legs and shell with those of the Galapagos tortoise.



**5** Male leatherback turtles never return to land once they've hatched. Females only return to land to lay their eggs. In Surinam, scientists and local people are working together to protect the turtles. People only take eggs that would be destroyed or swept out to sea. **How many eggs do you see here?**



**3** **LOOK** at the paintings of the hatching sea turtles. How do baby turtles make their way to the ocean surface? **How long does the incubating python wrap around her eggs?**

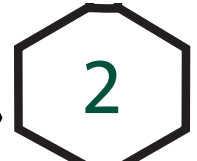


**4** **LOOK** carefully at the end of the alligator snapping turtle's tongue. **How does it lure its prey?**



**3** **LOOK** at the gecko. **How does it manage to walk up the glass?**

**2** **LOOK** at the alligator here—see those huge teeth and jaws! Look at how much of its head space is used up with body parts that help it to get and eat food. Compare it with your own head. **Who has more room for a brain?**



**2** **Do snakes have legs?** **LOOK** at the huge reticulated python skeleton in the rear of this case. Now take a closer look at the small model of the back end of the snake at the rear of the case before you make up your mind!

**1** The world's longest snake is looking for dinner. **What is it going to eat?**



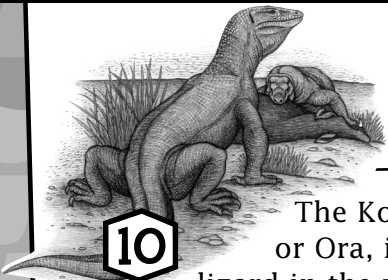
Start here

- To see more reptiles and amphibians on your visit, go to:
- The Natural Science Center on the second floor
  - The Dzanga-Sangha Rain Forest Diorama and the Spectrum of Life Wall in the Hall of Biodiversity
  - The Hall of Vertebrate Origins

# Amphibians

Amphibians lay their eggs in water or damp places on land. The eggs are naked—they don't have shells and need to be kept moist. The baby amphibians inside the eggs would die if the eggs were to dry out. Babies hatch out—usually as tadpoles—and live in water for the first part of their life.

Look for the numbers on the display cases



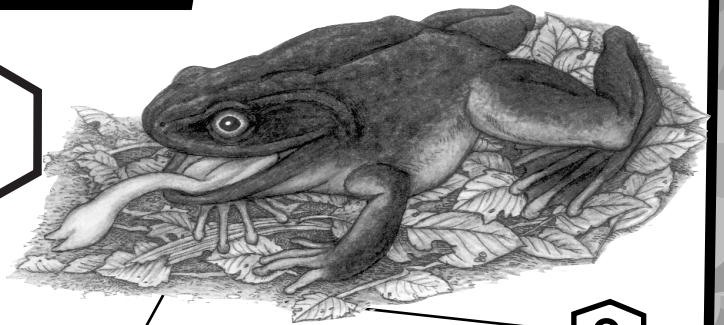
10

The Komodo dragon, or Ora, is the largest lizard in the world. It only lives on a few little islands in its native Indonesia. Our dragons share their case with much smaller lizards.

**LOOK**

for two of them. What's their name?

10



9

The Goliath frog is the biggest frog in the world. Its body can be one foot in length.

**LOOK**

for the world's smallest frog. It's only half an inch long, but what's it called?

9

9

The Surinam toad lays eggs and her mate plasters them on her back. The eggs sink in and the mother's skin grows over them. The eggs develop in these pouches and the babies hatch out in water.

**FIND**

5 things it eats. Hint: look in and out of the water. Even in the air!

8

Find the frog in the corner. It's sitting by a little pond looking for food. All the animals around it are its food.

8

8

When male bullfrogs call, this lets other bullfrogs know where they are. Males don't let other male bullfrogs come on their patch of land or territory. Can you see what happens when one does?

**FIND**

three different places where amphibians lay their eggs to prevent them from drying out.

7

**LOOK**

at the lizards on the rocks. See how they change their body positions to heat up or cool down depending on the sunshine. **Where do you sit in summer to stay cool? What about winter?**

7

7

Amphibians with bright colors often taste terrible!

The colors warn others that they are poisonous.

**LOOK**

for a salamander that does something complicated with its body to warn animals to keep away!

6

Most snakes in the U.S. are completely harmless. There are precautions you can take if dangerous snakes are nearby. Read "How to Get Bitten by a Snake" to learn what NOT to do!

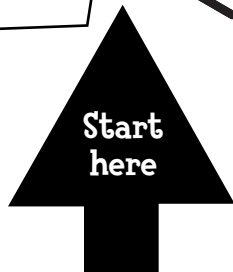
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AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



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Start here



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