

# Exploration Reptiles

## COMPARE

What's different about these reptiles? Describe each reptile using words.



Is this reptile all the same color?

How do you think this reptile moves around?

**Long Nosed Snake**

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Do you see any designs on this reptile?

Do you see any patterns?

**Western Hog Nosed Snake**

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Do all of these reptiles have legs?

Do you think all of these reptiles are the same size?

**Horned Lizard**

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## FUN FACTS



This snake deposits its eggs underground in cavities. The hatchling snakes feed on lizards.

**Long Nosed Snake**

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The defense mode of this snake is to hiss softly at danger and then leave the area. It lives mostly underground to avoid extreme temperatures of heat and cold.

**Western Hog Nosed Snake**

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When threatened, this lizard flattens out and disappears into its surroundings. When very agitated, it puffs up, hisses, and squirts blood from its eyes to deter predators!

**Horned Lizard**



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## FIELD JOURNAL

### Instructions

**Let's look at different kinds of reptiles!** You might need to visit a zoo, a pet store, or look in a book. If there are any reptiles near your house that your adult helper tells you are safe, take a look, but remember, not all reptiles are friendly.

Try to discover at least three different reptiles and draw a picture of each one (if you are looking in a book, you can look at photographs to get ideas for your drawings). As you are drawing, you might want to think about these questions:

- How would you describe this reptile?
- Do you see any patterns on this reptile? How are the patterns on these reptiles the same? How are they different?
- Do you see any designs on this reptile? How are the designs on these reptiles the same? How are they different?
- How does this reptile move around?
- Where do you think this reptile might live?

When you are finished, look at all of your pictures. How are these reptiles the same? How are they different?

**Your Name:**

**Today's Date:**

**What's the Weather Like?**

**Draw the reptiles you see in the space below.**



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## TIPS FOR ADULT HELPERS

### General Tips

- 1. Try to ask children open-ended questions.** These kind of questions help children talk about nature. For example, a useful open-ended question could be, “How would you describe this shell?”
- 2. There are many “correct” answers.** When asking open-ended questions, remember that there is no one “correct” answer. There are many “right” answers. The goal is to have children and adults have a thoughtful discussion.
- 3. Praise thoughtful answers.** If you ask a close-ended question (such as “What animal lives in that shell?” or “What color is that bird?”), any thoughtful answer could be praised. Even if the child’s answer is inaccurate, you could say something like, “That was a great idea. You know, that is how scientists learn, by thinking and trying out different ideas.”
- 4. Start from what the child knows already.** When trying to get a thoughtful discussion going, start with what the child already knows about a topic. Use that information as a springboard for further exploration. Through discussion and exploration, children can expand and revise their knowledge about nature.
- 5. Explore together.** If the topic is new to you as an adult helper, share this information with the child. You can make guesses and explore together. All science starts off with questions, not answers.
- 6. Science IS exploration and discovery.** When you let children try out different theories, you help introduce them to the scientific method and start building research skills.
- 7. Explore a science book together.** If a child is interested in a particular topic, you might want to follow up the activity reading a science book together and writing down what you have learned about the topic.

### Examples of Open Ended Questions About Reptiles

When you **compare and contrast** different reptiles, you might begin by asking the child questions such as:

- Is this reptile all the same color?
- Do you see any designs on this reptile?
- Do you see any patterns?
- How do you think this reptile moves around?
- How do you think this reptile can protect itself?

To discuss **similarities and differences**, you might want to ask questions such as:

- How are these reptiles similar to each other?
- How are they different?

If the child is having a hard time coming up with ideas, you might prompt her/him with more narrow questions such as:

- Do all of these reptiles have legs?
- Are some of the reptiles more colorful than the others?
- Do you think all of these reptiles are the same size?
- Do all of these reptiles have feet?
- How are they the same?
- How are they different?