



REPTILE OBSERVATION

Observe reptile characteristics and behaviors at the zoo



GRADE 2

MATERIALS

- provided zoo map

KEY WORDS

- reptile
- habitat
- environment

STANDARDS

- SCI.2.3.1
- SCI.2.3.2

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about reptiles through observation and drawing conclusions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- All reptiles have a backbone, breathe with lungs, and lay dry, scaly skin.
- Reptiles lay eggs that have a dry leathery shell. Unlike amphibians, which have eggs with a jelly coat that must remain in water, reptiles are less dependent on water.
- Basic Reptile Types
 - Turtles are the only reptiles that have their “houses” on their backs.
 - Lizards have visible, moving eyelids, limbs, and an ear opening on each side of their head.
 - Snakes lack limbs, eyelids, and ear openings.
 - Crocodylians include alligators as well as crocodiles. They are the most ancestral of the reptiles.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Have a group discussion about the observations made by students.

EXTENSIONS

- Assign each child or group a Reptile Treasure to discover as they move through zoo; for example, the heaviest reptile, the smallest reptile, the longest reptile, a reptile with three colors, etc. The children should report on the results of their treasure hunt when they get back to school.



REPTILE OBSERVATION



Observe the following reptiles in Dr. Diversity's Rain Forest Research Station while you are at the zoo. Fill in your observation on the chart.

Name _____

NAME OF REPTILE	KOMODO DRAGON	RETICULATED PYTHON	TIMOR MONITOR LIZARD
KIND OF REPTILE	snake lizard turtle crocodilian	snake lizard turtle crocodilian	snake lizard turtle crocodilian
WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE			
WHAT IT EATS			
INTERESTING FACTS			



REPTILE OBSERVATION



Observe the following reptiles in Dr. Diversity's Rain Forest Research Station. Look for the green tree python, Asian vine snake, bent-toed gecko, and tokay gecko. Fill in your observations on the chart.



Name _____

NAME OF REPTILE			
KIND OF REPTILE	snake lizard turtle crocodilian	snake lizard turtle crocodilian	snake lizard turtle crocodilian
WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE			
WHAT IT EATS			
INTERESTING FACTS			



REPTILE OBSERVATION



Observe reptiles in other areas of the zoo. Look for the boa constrictor, American alligator, turtles, and the giant tortoise.

Name _____

NAME OF REPTILE			
KIND OF REPTILE	snake lizard turtle crocodilian	snake lizard turtle crocodilian	snake lizard turtle crocodilian
WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE			
WHAT IT EATS			
INTERESTING FACTS			