WHAT IS A REPTILE?
Examine pictures and determine what constitutes a reptile

OBJECTIVES
• Students will learn that reptiles are a class of animals sharing certain characteristics. They have dry, scaly skin; are cold-blooded; are vertebrates; and lay eggs with a leathery shell.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
• All reptiles are vertebrates, breathe with lungs, and have dry, scaly skin.
• Reptiles lay eggs that have a dry leathery shell. Unlike amphibians, which lay 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.
  - Crocodilians include alligators, as well as crocodiles. They are the most ancestral of the reptiles.

PROCEDURE
• Activity 1 - Have students circle the animals that are reptiles.
• Activity 2 - Have students cut and paste pictures of reptiles into the correct category (turtle, snake, lizard, crocodilian).

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT
• Have students compare their answers in a large group and defend their answers if there is disagreement.

EXTENSIONS
• Have students read about crocodiles and alligators, turtles and tortoises, or lizards and snakes. Then have them find similarities and differences between the pairs of reptiles.
• Collect pictures of snakes, lizards, turtles, alligators, and crocodiles. Label and place the pictures on the bulletin board.
• Talk about how dinosaurs are reptiles too. Look for our dinosaur activities at the zoo.

TEACHER HINTS
• Some lizard species don’t have limbs.
• Some turtle species lay their eggs in riverbanks, and they will only hatch when they are submerged in water.
• Crocodiles have visible teeth when their jaws are closed. Alligators do not have any visible teeth when their jaws are closed.
WHAT IS A REPTILE?
Activity 1 & 2: Answer Keys

ACTIVITY 1

ACTIVITY 2

TURTLES
- Alligator
- American River Turtle
- Box Turtle

SNAKES
- Rattlesnake
- Rattlesnake
- Boa Constrictor

LIZARDS
- Smooth-head Gecko
- Iguana

CROCODILIANS
- Alligator
- Crocodile
WHAT IS A REPTILE?
Activity 1: Look at the pictures of the animals below. Circle the reptiles.

Name _______________________________
# CLASSIFYING REPTILES

Activity 2: Glue pictures of reptiles in the correct categories below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TURTLES</th>
<th>SNAKES</th>
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<tr>
<th>LIZARDS</th>
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Activity 2: Cut out the reptiles below. Glue them in the correct box on the "Classifying Reptiles" chart.

Name ________________________