



# WRITING ABOUT REPTILES

Create poetry about reptiles



## GRADE 2

### KEY WORDS

- reptiles
- cold blooded
- vertebrate

### STANDARDS

- SCI.2.3.2

### OBJECTIVES

- Reptiles are a class of animals sharing certain characteristics. They have dry, scaly skin; are cold-blooded; are vertebrates; and usually lay eggs with a leathery shell.
- Students will learn that animals through observations and by drawing their own conclusions.

### 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.
  - Crocodylians include alligators as well as crocodiles. They are the most ancestral of the reptiles.

### PROCEDURE

- Have students write poems based on information they have obtained about reptiles. There are different types of poems that can be written.
  - Students can choose to write an acrostic poem.
  - When writing an acrostic poem, a word or phrase beginning with the indicated letter that describes the subject of the poem is written next to the letter. Names of reptiles (snakes, turtles, lizards, etc.) could also be used following the same format.

Example:     **R**emarkable  
                   **E**xciting  
                   **P**leasing  
                   **T**ough  
                   **I**ntriguing  
                   **L**ounging  
                   **E**nchanting  
                   **S**plendid



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- Students can choose to write a cinquain.
- Cinquain (sing-KANE) is a five-line form of poetry that will help students capture the essence of an animal in just a few words.

Examples:

Ostrich  
 Long-necked  
 Always looking confused  
 You seem so silly  
 "Stretch"

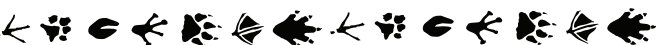
Polar Bear  
 Shaggy, white  
 Swims in ice-water  
 Brr, a cold life  
 Arctic

## RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Have students share their poetry aloud.

## EXTENSIONS

- Other poems that students could write are haikus, limericks, or free verse poems.
- Have students write a short story about reptiles.





# ANIMAL CINQUAIN



Fill in the blanks to capture the essence of an animal in just a few words.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 word - animal)

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 words describing the animal)

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
(3 words expressing action)

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
(4 words telling how you feel about it)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 word summing it up)

