

Habits:
Habitat:
Species
Identifying Characteristics

Habits:
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Species
Identifying Characteristics

Habits:
Habitat:

Amphibians

Species
Identifying Characteristics
Habits:
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For any four of these, make sketches from your own observations or take photographs. Show markings, color patterns, or other characteristics that are important in the identification of each of the four species.

1		2	

3		4	

2. Discuss with your merit badge counselor the approximate number of species and general geographic distribution of reptiles and amphibians in the United States.



Prepare a list of the most common species found in your local area or state.

Reptiles

Amphibians

Reptiles		Amphibians	

3. Describe the main differences between: **COMPLETE AHEAD OF TIME IF POSSIBLE**

a. Amphibians and reptiles.

b. Alligators and crocodiles.

c. Toads and frogs.

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d. Salamanders and lizards.

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e. Snakes and lizards.

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4. Explain how reptiles and amphibians are an important component of the natural environment.

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List four species that are officially protected by the federal government or state you live in, and tell why each is protected. List three species of reptiles and three species of amphibians found in your local area that are not protected. Discuss the food habits of all ten species.

Protected Species

1. Species

Why protected?

Food habits:

2. Species

Why protected?

Food habits:

Species

Why protected?

Food habits:

4. Species

Why protected?

Food habits:

Unprotected Reptiles

1. Species

Food habits:

2. Species

Food habits:

3. Species

Food habits:

Unprotected Amphibians

1. Species

Food habits:

2. Species

Food habits:

3. Species

Food habits:

5. Describe how reptiles and amphibians reproduce.

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6. From observation, describe how snakes move forward.

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Describe the functions of the muscles, ribs, and belly plates.

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7. Describe in detail six venomous snakes and the one venomous lizard found in the United States. Describe their habits and geographic range. **COMPLETE AHEAD OF TIME IF POSSIBLE**

Venomous Snake 1

Description:

Habits:

Range:

Venomous Snake 2

Description:

Habits:

Range:

Venomous Snake 3

Description:

Habits:

Range:

Venomous Snake 4

Description:

Habits:

Range:

Venomous Snake 5

Description:

Habits:

Range:

Venomous Snake 6

Description:

Habits:

Range:

Venomous Lizard

Description:

Habits:

Range:

Tell what you should do in case of a bite by a venomous species.

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8. Do ONE of the following:

- a. Maintain one or more reptiles or amphibians for at least a month. Record the food accepted, eating methods, changes in coloration, shedding of skins, and general habits; or keep the eggs of a reptile from the time of laying until hatching; or keep the eggs of an amphibian from the time of laying until their transformation into tadpoles (frogs) or larvae (salamanders). **COMPLETE AHEAD OF TIME IF POSSIBLE**

Reptile(s) or Amphibian(s) Maintained:

Dates:

Day	Food Accepted	Eating Methods	Color Changes	Skin Shedding	General Habits
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
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31					

- b. If you are not able to care for a reptile or amphibian you may choose to help with a restoration project. This can be with any organization including the forest preserve. See our website under the heading GET INVOLVED then click on volunteering. There is a list of preserves with dates of the projects. You can also go to the calendar and click on any date to see if a project near you is happening that day.

9. Do the following:

- a. Identify at night three kinds of toads or frogs by their voices. Imitate the song of each for your counselor. Stalk each with a flashlight and discover how each sings and from where.
- b. Identify by sight eight species of reptiles or amphibians.

10. Give five superstitions about reptiles and amphibians and a correct explanation for each.

	Superstition	Explanation
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Give seven examples of unusual behavior or other true facts about reptiles and amphibians.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
