



# Reptile Memory

## **Audience**

Activity designed for ages 6 years old and up. You will need at least 2 people for this activity

## **Goal**

Students will understand how diverse reptiles are across the world.

## **Objective**

- To be able to identify notable reptile species.
- To use memory skills and exercise your brain.

## **Conservation Message**

There are over 10,000 different species of reptiles across the world. Reptiles are found on every continent except for Antarctica. They play many important roles in the habitats where they live. Reptiles can be top predators, prey species and even play the role of pollinators. There are numerous reptile species that are endangered or threatened because of human activities interrupting their habitats. It is important that we practice recycling and energy saving activities to protect the fragile habitats where reptiles can be found

## **Background Information**

There are four major groups of reptiles that include snakes, lizards, crocodilians and turtles. Characteristics of reptiles includes ectothermic (cold blooded), scales, lungs, backbones, egg producing and claws. Ectothermic means that reptiles get their body heat from the environment; reptiles are known for basking on a rock or log in the sun. Even though they may look different, all reptiles have scales on them. Reptiles are vertebrates which means they ALL possess a backbone or vertebrae. Reptiles also produce eggs, breathe air with lungs and most have claws.

There are around 3,000 different species of snakes across the globe, the one thing they all have in common is the fact they do not have legs or external ears. Lizards are the most group diverse group with over 4,600 species! All lizards have external ears but not all of them have legs. There around 350 species of turtles and tortoises, both

groups have shells, but their shells are different. Tortoise shells are more domed, and they spend more time on land while turtles have flatter shells and flipper like legs or webbed feet to make it easier for them to swim. Crocodylians include alligators and crocodiles and there are 23 different species. This group has very large bony plates on their skin called scutes and a 4 chambered heart.

### **Materials Needed**

- Reptile Cards
- Scissors
- Printer

### **Length of Activity**





30-40 minutes

### **Procedure**

- Print and cut out the Reptile Cards.
- Mixing the cards up, lay them in rows, face down in the playing area.
- The first player turns over any two cards.
- If the two cards match, a reptile picture with the correct reptile fact, the player keeps them, and it is the next player's turn.
- If they don't match, turn them back over and it will be the next player's turn.
- While playing, try to remember what was on each card and where it was in the rows. Watch and try remembering during the other player's turn too!
- The game is over when all the cards have been matched.
- The player with the most cards wins.

Helpful Hint: Until you are more familiar with the reptiles and the facts that are about them, the cards are numbers to help you match pairs.

# Reptile Cards

<p>1</p>  <p>Frilled lizard</p>	<p>1</p> <p>A species of lizard that is found in Northern Australia and is the only species that has a frilled neck.</p>
<p>2</p>  <p>Galapagos tortoise</p>	<p>2</p> <p>One of the largest species of tortoise in the world that can weigh 500 pounds and live to be over 100 years old.</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>Green anaconda</p>	<p>3</p> <p>The heaviest species of snake in the world is found in the Amazon River and will give live birth instead of laying eggs.</p>
<p>4</p>  <p>Komodo dragon</p>	<p>4</p> <p>The largest lizard species in the world is found in Indonesia and can eat 80% of its body weight in one meal.</p>

5



Leatherback sea turtle

5

The largest species of turtle can be found in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, eating primarily jellyfish.

6



Pygmy rattlesnake

6

The smallest species of venomous snake has a rattle and is found in the Southeast United States.

7



Gila monster

7

One of the few species of venomous lizard, they can be found Arizona and Southern Utah.

8



Panther chameleon

8

A lizard that can change color and has a long sticky tongue for catching insects.






9



Basilisk lizard

9

This lizard is found in Central America and can run so fast that is able to run across water.

<p>10</p>	 <p>Copperhead</p>	<p>10</p> <p>A venomous snake that blends in perfectly with fallen leaves.</p>
<p>11</p>	 <p>American alligator</p>	<p>11</p> <p>An alligator that can go through 3,000 teeth in their lifetime.</p>
<p>12</p>	 <p>Tokay gecko</p>	<p>12</p> <p>This nocturnal lizard has sticky feet for clinging to trees in the rainforests of Asia.</p>
<p>13</p>	 <p>Pig-nosed turtle</p>	<p>13</p> <p>A turtle that has a good sense of smell and a uniquely shaped nose.</p>
<p>14</p>	 <p>Saltwater crocodile</p>	<p>14</p> <p>This crocodylian can grow to be over 20 feet long and is found in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Asia.</p>