

## Extreme Reptiles Activity

### Supplies:

- Print off “Build A Reptile PDF”
- Blank Piece of paper
- Color pencils
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

### What makes a Reptile?

- Has a **backbone** inside of their body.
- Has protective **scales**.
- Is an **ectotherm**-meaning inside body changes with the outside environment. They cannot make their own heat. (cold-blooded)
- They have unique tools for survival to help it live in its environment (**adaptations**), and those tools are different based on habitat.
- Life begins as an **egg** laid on land.

**Adaptation:** A physical or behavioral characteristic of an organism that helps it to survive better in it’s habitat. Living things are adapted to the habitat they live in.

### Activity:

In this activity, students will create their own, never seen before, reptile. Designing it with tools (adaptations) that will help their reptile survive in a real habitat.

Using the provided resources, go through each different reptile body part (Tails, Feet, Bodies, Mouths, and Eyes) and identify how they would use those specific features to survive in a habitat. Assign each child or small group a habitat. Explore the habitat descriptions. Using the already created body parts worksheets (Build A Reptile PDF) have the students design a reptile to live in their assigned habitat. As they are choosing body parts, they should be able to explain why they are picking those specific parts (adaptations) and how it will be helpful in the habitat. Use the made up reptile included in this learning guide as a “bad example”. See if the students can spot why the animal would NOT survive in an ocean habitat.

# Tails



## Tails

Flat tails for swimming. Fat tails for fat storage for when food is scarce. Whipping and armored tails. Hanging and gripping tails. Break away tails for defense or a rattle as a warning.



# Bodies



## Bodies

Bodies with bright colors to warn of toxins. Flat bodies for gliding from tree to tree. Bodies covered in thick scales to survive harsh/hot habitats. Bodies that protect: camouflage, armor, spikes. Bodies you can close up like a box. Smooth bodies to glide through the water.

# Mouths

(Capturing Food)



## Mouths

Mouths with fangs to inject venom. Mouths with a beak or mouths with sharp teeth. Mouths with forked tongues to smell food or mouths with heat pits to detect food. Mouths with sticky tongues to catch insects.

# Eyes



## Eyes

Eyes with vertical pupils for seeing in the dark. Round pupils for seeing during day light. Eyes on-top of the head for sticking out of the water. Eyes with scale covers like goggles for underwater. Eyes that go different directions. Eyes that squirt blood for defense.

# DESERT



# WETLAND



# PRAIRIE



# OCEAN



# FOREST



## Forest:

- \*Trees!
- \*Tall, medium, and small plants
- \*Decaying logs
- \*Can be wet and dry
- \*Lots of green
- \*Animals of all sizes

## Prairie:

- \*Dry and hot, very little shade
- \*Random potholes of water
- \*Tall grasses and flowers
- \*Lots of insects, birds, rodents, and small reptiles.

## Wetland:

- \*Swampy shallow water
- \*Lots of plants, very muddy
- \*Lots of insects, and birds, snails, crayfish, and amphibians

## Ocean:

- \*Can be shallow with colorful coral reefs or very deep and dark.
- \*Animals of all sizes
- \*Lots of green
- \*Lots of space

## Desert:

- \*Dry and hot during the day
- \*Little shade
- \*Plants are spiny and succulent
- \*Sandy and rocky
- \*Can be hard to find food or water
- \*Animals of all sizes

# Does this animal have good adaptations to survive in an ocean habitat? Why or why not?

Description: Eyes that go in both directions, great for catching flying insects. Digging feet with claws, great for digging in sand and dirt. A rattle-tail so predators can hear it and be warned. A heavy armored, spiky body, to help protect it from predators and protect it from the sun. A beak with heat sensors to detect heat in the air. Rainbow scales to hide from predators. A long sticky tongue to catch prey.

