

# Reptiles

Learning Target:

There are four main groups of Reptiles:

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Reptiles evolved soon after amphibians and are closely \_\_\_\_\_ to them. However, animals in the reptile group have adaptations that allow them to survive in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ places than amphibians. For many millions of years they were the largest and most diverse vertebrate animal group living on land.

Reptiles have the following characteristics:

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## Lungs

Reptiles do not get \_\_\_\_\_ through their skin the way amphibians do. They are born with \_\_\_\_\_ that provide their bodies with all the oxygen they need. When an animal with lungs \_\_\_\_\_, it takes air in through its nostrils or mouth and moves the air into its lungs. There, oxygen is transported across the tissues and into the blood, and

\_\_\_\_\_ is moved from the blood to the lungs and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Dry, Scaly Skin

Reptile skin is hard, dry, and covered with \_\_\_\_\_ made of \_\_\_\_\_, a substance similar to human fingernails. The thick, \_\_\_\_\_ skin of reptiles protects them from the environment and from predators.

### Eggs with Shells

The reptile egg is an important adaptation that allows vertebrate animals to survive in hot, dry environments. The eggs of reptiles contain everything an **embryo** needs:

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Membranes separate the internal parts of the egg, which is covered by a protective shell.

Research and find a labeled diagram of a reptile egg. Draw and label it in the space below.

Reptiles reproduce \_\_\_\_\_. The egg cell of the female joins with the \_\_\_\_\_ cell of the male in the process of \_\_\_\_\_. After fertilization, a protective case, or shell, forms around each egg while it is still inside the female's body. The female selects a place to lay the eggs on \_\_\_\_\_. Many species of reptiles build or \_\_\_\_\_. Some female reptiles, including alligators, guard their nests and care for their offspring (\_\_\_\_\_) after they hatch. Most reptiles, however, leave soon after the eggs are laid.

Boa Constrictors and Pythons give birth to live young.

All reptiles are \_\_\_\_\_...cold blooded!