

# Reptiles

## Discussion Questions:

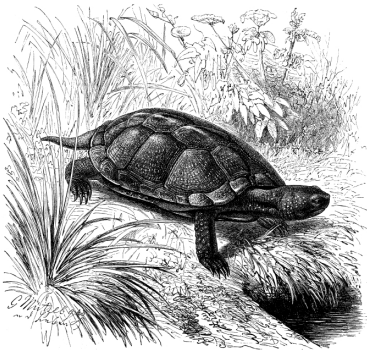
- 1) What animals belong to the reptiles group?
- 2) What features do they have in common?
- 3) What types of environments do they inhabit?
- 4) How do reptiles protect themselves against predators?
- 5) What are the most dangerous reptiles?

# REPTILES

- Have scales.
- Have dry skin.
- Usually lay eggs.
- Are ectothermic (cold-blooded)

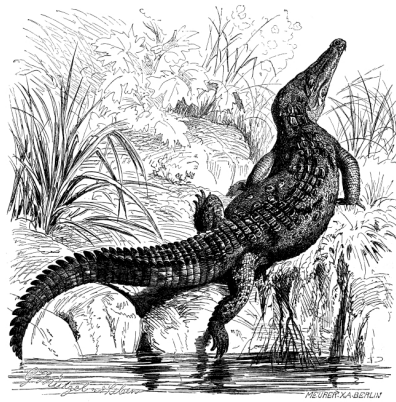
## TURTLES

includes:  
turtles, sea turtles,  
tortoises, terrapins



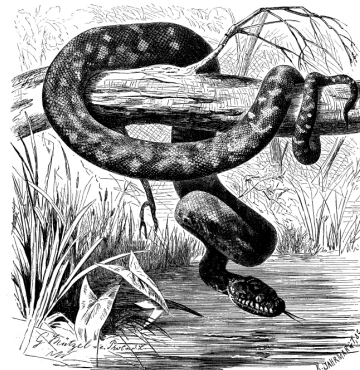
## CROCODILES

includes:  
crocodiles, alligators,  
caimans, gharial



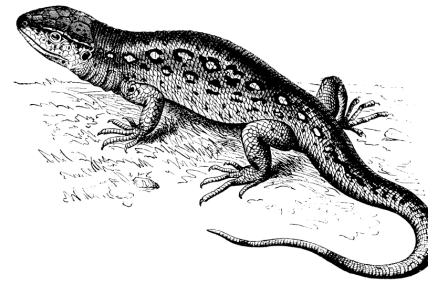
## SNAKES

includes:  
terrestrial snakes, sea  
snakes



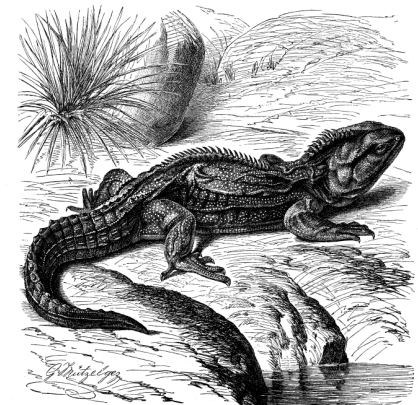
## LIZARDS

includes:  
legless lizards, skinks,  
geckos, monitors and  
many others



## TUATARA

Very rare lizard found  
only in the islands  
surrounding New  
Zealand



# Crocodiles, Caimans and Alligators

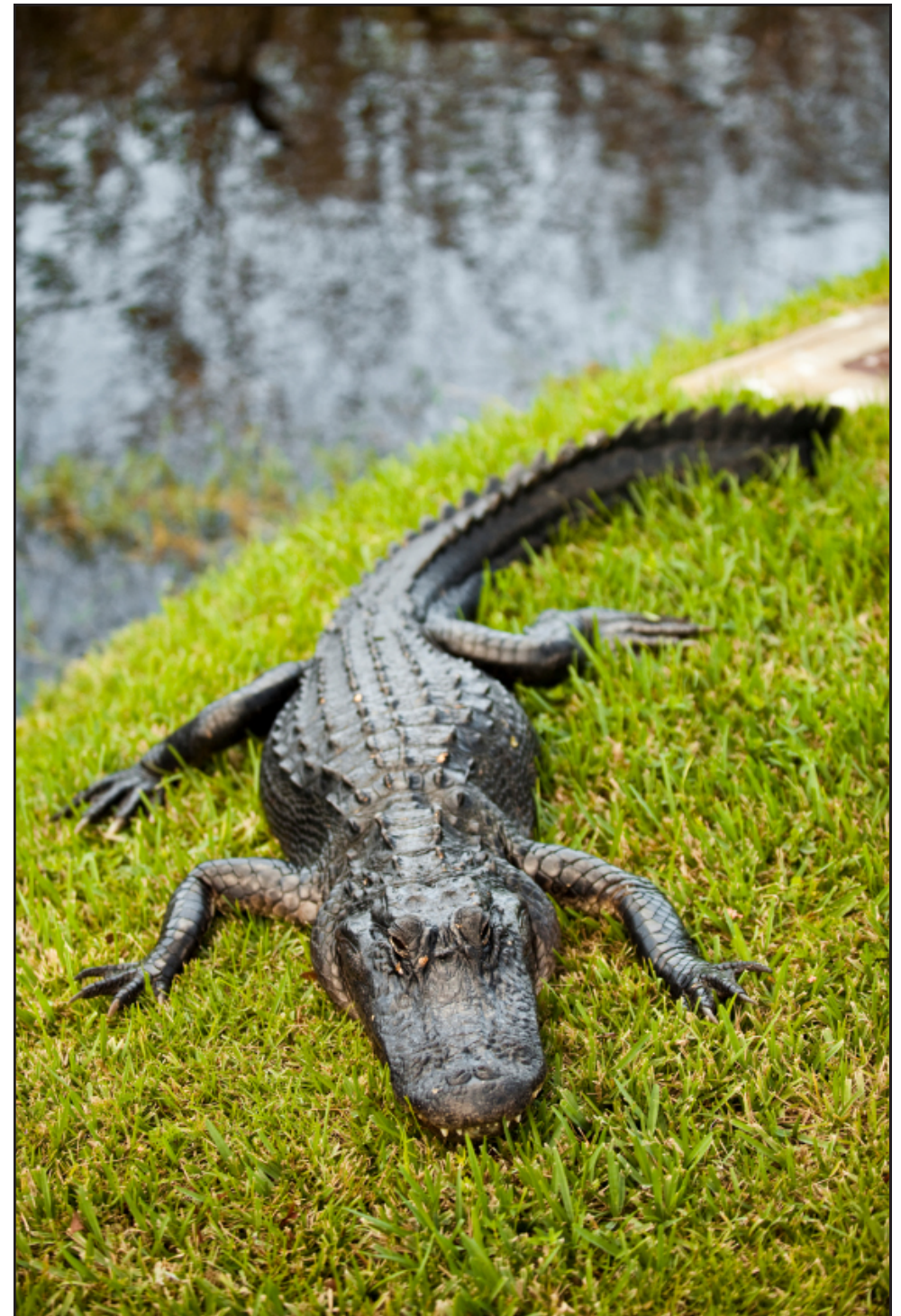
These fascinating reptiles live in warm temperate climates of the world. They can be found in the Americas, Africa, Asia and Australia.

Alligators and caimans have a wide, u-shaped snout while crocodiles tend to have narrower, v-shaped snouts.

There are 23 species of crocodilia. The largest is the salt water crocodile which can be found in the northern parts of Australia.



Above: An Australian Salt Water Crocodile found in the northern tropical regions of Australia.  
Right: An American Alligator found in the southern regions of the USA.



# Turtles, Tortoises and Terrapins

Turtles, tortoises and terrapins have hard shells that protects them from predators. They breathe air, are cold blooded and lay eggs.

Turtles have flippers and spend most of their time living in water. They have a streamlined shape for swimming. Turtles do not retract their heads into their shells.

Tortoises have round stumpy feet for walking on land. They spend their life living on land. Tortoises can completely retract their heads into their shells.

Terrapins live in water and on land. They have webbed toes and can be found living near streams, rivers and lakes. Terrapins can fold their necks into their shells sideways.



# Snakes

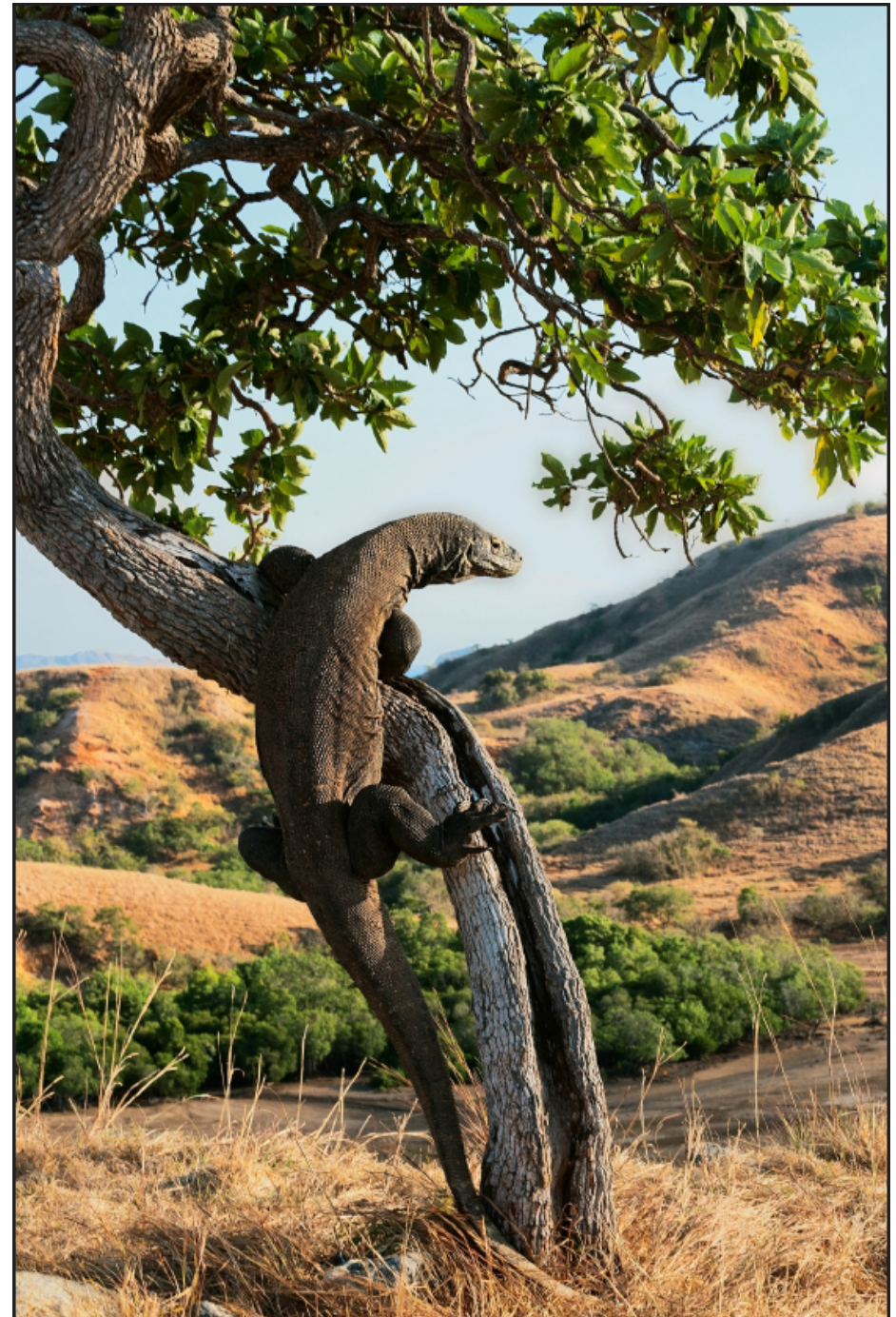
Snakes are cold blooded animals. They are covered in scales and can be found living in a variety of environments throughout the world.

Many snakes have mobile jaws. They can unhinge the jaw joint, enabling them to open their mouths wide enough to swallow large prey. Most snakes are non venomous- only 375 of approximately 3400 species of snakes are venomous.

Most snakes lay eggs but boas, rattle snakes and garter snakes give birth to live babies.



There are a wide range of species of lizards living in the world today. They range in size from tiny skinks and geckos through to the largest monitors. The pictures below are of a skink and an Australian goanna.



How do these lizards protect themselves?



The Komodo Dragon is a fearsome predator.





# The Australian Salt Water Crocodile

Reaching a length of over 6 metres and a body mass that is well over 1000kg, this is the world's largest reptile.



# The World's Most Deadly Snakes



The Inland Taipan, considered to be the most venomous snake in the world, is native to Australia.



The Eastern Brown Snake, the world's 2nd most venomous snake, also native to Australia.



The Tiger snake, 4th dangerous most snake in the world, is native to Australia.



The King Cobra, native to Asia, is number 17 in the top 25 most venomous snakes in the world. (Interestingly, 20 out of the top 25 are native to Australia!)