

# ***Reptiles and Amphibians***

***Can you tell fact from fiction?***

*"In Cold Blood" Pre-Visitation Activity*

**Time:**

30 – 45 minutes

**Grades:**

K – 8

**Summary:**

This pre-visitation activity is a 35 question reptile and amphibian quiz.

**Goals:**

To introduce students to reptiles and amphibians in preparation for "In Cold Blood" class presented during Desert Outdoor Center field trip.

To dispel popular myths and misconceptions about reptiles and amphibians

**Directions:**

1. Tell students to answer questions by circling True or False.
2. Read answers and start discussion about reptiles and amphibians.
3. Ask students to read and comment on reptile and amphibian facts.

## Can you tell fact from fiction?

Take this quiz and grade your reptile and amphibian knowledge.

- T / F 1. Gila Monsters are the only lizards with a forked tongue.
- T / F 2. Gila Monsters can kill small prey with their breath.
- T / F 3. The age of a rattlesnake cannot be determined by counting the segments of its rattle.
- T / F 4. Rattlesnakes give birth to live young.
- T / F 5. Salamanders are a type of reptile.
- T / F 6. More Americans die each year from bee stings than snake bites.
- T / F 7. People get warts from touching frogs and toads.
- T / F 8. Frogs walk.
- T / F 9. Lizards do push-ups to impress lady lizards.
- T / F 10. Snakes and lizards flick their tongues in the air to capture scent particles.
- T / F 11. The desert tortoise can survive long periods of time without food or water.
- T / F 12. Frogs croak louder and longer when bad weather is approaching.
- T / F 13. Releasing a pet into the wild is potentially damaging to other animals.
- T / F 14. Snakes do not have bones.
- T / F 15. Some lizards can lose their tail and grow it back.
- T / F 16. Snakes can blink.
- T / F 17. Snakes hypnotize prey with their stare.
- T / F 18. It is okay to take home a wild desert tortoise as a pet.
- T / F 19. Some snakes eat other snakes.
- T / F 20. The largest snake in the world is an anaconda.

- T / F 21. Snakes have slimy skin.
- T / F 22. Less than 1% of rattlesnake bites result in human deaths.
- T / F 23. The Gila Monster and Mexican Beaded Lizard are the only venomous lizards in the world.
- T / F 24. Some tortoises are omnivores.
- T/F 25. A rattlesnake's rattle is made of keratin, the same material found in human hair and fingernails.
- T/F 26. Tortoises can exit from their shells.
- T / F 27. The hoop snake grasps its tail by its mouth to roll after its prey.
- T / F 28. A rattlesnake can only bite you if it is in a springing, coiled position.
- T / F 29. Frogs frequently shed their skin, and eat it for nutrition and water.
- T / F 30. A rattlesnake can move its rattle back and forth 60 or more times per second.
- T / F 31. More types of rattlesnakes live in Arizona than any other state.
- T / F 32. All snakes are venomous.
- T / F 33. Venomous snakes have a red tongue and non-venomous snakes have dark tongues.
- T / F 34. Rattlesnakes have glands that produce venom, much like the human salivary gland that produces saliva.
- T / F 35. Baby rattlesnakes are more venomous than adult rattlesnakes.

How many did you get right? \_\_\_\_\_

## Answers

1. **False** - A forked tongue is a tongue split into two distinct tines at the tip; this is a feature common to many species of reptiles. Reptiles smell using the tip of their tongue, and a forked tongue allows them to sense which direction a smell is coming from.
2. **False** – They produce venom in lower jaw glands. Once biting prey it holds on and chews more venom into its victim. Venom is injected through grooves in teeth. Gila monsters prey on newborn rodents, rabbits, hares, nesting birds, and lizards. They also eat bird, lizard, snake, and tortoise eggs. They spend most of their lives underground and are harmless to humans unless agitated.
3. **True** – The rattle is composed of a protein called keratin – so are your fingernails. The segments easily break off. A new segment is added each time a rattlesnake sheds. Because snakes shed at different rates, and because segments break off, it is not possible to tell a snake's age by counting the segments.
4. **True** – Baby rattlesnakes are born live from mid-summer to early autumn.
5. **False** – They are amphibians because they do not have scales covering their body and they lay their eggs in water. All reptiles are born on land.
6. **True** – 8.6 stings per pound of body weight = the number of stings fatal to humans.
7. **False** – People get warts from viruses, not frogs and toads. Frogs have slimy skin to stay moist when it's dry and toads have bumpy skin to help camouflage themselves.
8. **False**
9. **True** – Lizard push-ups are a form of breeding and social dominance behavior. If you look carefully around a lizard doing push-ups you may see another lizard close by.
10. **True**
11. **True** – They store water in their bladder, and are able to tolerate high levels of urea in their blood to keep from losing moisture through excess urinating.
12. **False**
13. **True** – Invasive species released into the wild often adapt, taking food, habitat, and resources from native wildlife. Captive animals pick up illnesses, bacteria, and parasites that wild animals have never been exposed to. They can spread these illnesses and diseases to wildlife, which can lead to significant damage to populations.
14. **False** - A snake skeleton has a skull, vertebrae, and ribs. Some have vestigial limbs!
15. **True** – When attacked by a predator some lizards can lose their tail and run away while the predator is distracted with the still-moving appendage.
16. **False** – Snakes do not have eyelids. Their eyes are protected by a clear scale, which is replaced each time they shed.
17. **False** -
18. **False** – This is against the law.
19. **True** – The king snake will eat other snakes including rattlesnakes.
20. **True** – The giant anaconda, also known as green anaconda, averages 17 feet in length but can grow as long as 30 feet.
21. **False** – Reptiles have a dry scaly skin made of a substance called keratin.
22. **False** – This is according to Arizona Poison control centers.

23. **False** – New science is showing that there are many (and many more to be discovered!) venomous lizards. Green iguanas, bearded dragons are “mildly venomous” and the infamous Komodo Dragon has venom glands.
24. **True** – Many tortoises are strict herbivores, but some will eat carrion or insects if they are lucky enough to find it.
25. **True**
26. **False** – The shell is part of its skeleton.
27. **False** – No snake can do this.
28. **False** – A rattlesnake can bite from any position. They turn their head, open and close their mouth and bite.
29. **True**
30. **True**
31. **True** – According to Arizona Game and Fish there are 13 different kinds of rattlesnakes that live in Arizona.
32. **False** – Constriction is the method used by most snakes to kill their prey.
33. **False**
34. **True**
35. **False** – Adults can deliver a much larger venom dose than a younger one because their venom glands are much larger allowing them to produce more.