

# Amphibians and Reptiles

6 Articles

Check articles you have read:

**Frog or Toad?**

82 words

**Meet a Rattlesnake**

101 words

**A Sea Turtle's Life Story**

116 words

**Rain Forest Animals**

89 words

**Meet Some Desert Animals**

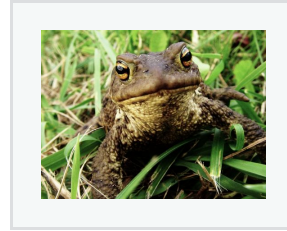
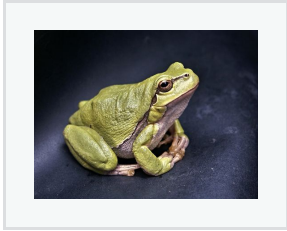
99 words

**The American Crocodile**

180 words

# Frog or Toad?

By Rachelle Kreisman



Can you tell a frog from a toad?

Frogs and toads are alike in many ways. They both start their lives in water. Later, both can live on land or in water. Grown frogs and toads use lungs to breathe.

Frogs and toads are also different. Frogs have narrow bodies. Toads have wide bodies. Most frogs have smooth, wet skin. Most toads have dry, bumpy skin.

Frogs jump using their long back legs. Toads walk and hop using their short back legs.

# Meet a Rattlesnake

By ReadWorks

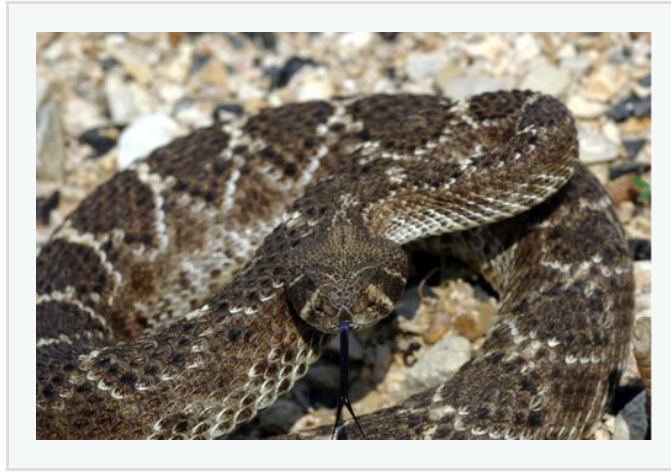


Photo Credit: Clinton and Charles Robertson

A reptile is a kind of animal. A reptile has scales on its body. A snake is a reptile.

One kind of snake is a rattlesnake. A rattlesnake eats small animals such as mice. The snake kills the mouse. Then it swallows the mouse whole.

A rattlesnake has a rattle on its tail. The rattle is made of pieces of hard skin. The snake moves its tail. Then the pieces rattle together. The noise the pieces make is a little like a baby's rattle. But a rattlesnake is a lot more dangerous than a baby!

# A Sea Turtle's Life Story

By Kate Paixao



A female sea turtle crawls along the beach. She finds a safe spot. She digs a hole and lays eggs inside it.

This sea turtle mother covers the eggs with sand. She does it to protect the eggs. Otherwise, raccoons and other predators may eat the eggs. Afterward, the sea turtle mother returns to the sea.

Two months later, the eggs hatch. Baby turtles dig out of the sand. They cross the beach to the ocean.

In the ocean, the little turtles eat and grow. They may live for more than eighty years. Male sea turtles never return to land. Female sea turtles come back only to lay eggs. Then the cycle of life begins again.

# Rain Forest Animals

By Susan LaBella



Rain forests are warm, wet places. Many trees and plants grow there. Many animals live there.

Macaws live in rain forest trees. Macaws have bright colors. These birds use their beaks to open the nuts they eat.

Colorful poison dart frogs live in rain forests. These frogs have a special skin. It gives off a poisonous juice when enemies get near.

Spider monkeys live high in rain forest trees. They swing quickly from branch to branch. Spider monkeys eat fruits and seeds.

Rain forests are full of amazing animals!

# Meet Some Desert Animals

By Susan LaBella



Deserts are very dry places. They get almost no rain. Interesting animals live in Earth's deserts. Here are a few of them.

Jackrabbits have long ears. Their ears help them get rid of body heat and stay cool in the desert. Jackrabbits eat twigs and cactus plants.

The desert tortoise digs holes, called burrows, under the ground. Staying in its burrows helps the tortoise keep cool when the desert sun is very hot.

Prairie dogs are fast runners. They run quickly from desert enemies such as coyotes and eagles. Prairie dogs call to one another when danger is near.

# The American Crocodile

By Susan LaBella



American crocodiles are long, scaly reptiles. They live in watery areas known as wetlands. In the United States, this kind of crocodile lives in the Everglades. That is a swampy section in the state of Florida.

The Everglades is an ecosystem. An ecosystem is a place where living things, like animals and plants, exist with nonliving things, such as water and soil. Any change to an ecosystem may affect all the wildlife that live in it.

In 1975, the American crocodile was listed as an endangered animal. Endangered animals are close to disappearing forever. One reason why the American crocodiles were in danger was that people were moving into the reptiles' ecosystem. People built homes and businesses on Everglades land. That made it harder for the crocodiles to find food and lay eggs.

People who were worried about the crocodiles and other wildlife in the Everglades worked to pass laws to protect the ecosystem. Today, there is good news. Scientists say there are more than a thousand American crocodiles living in southern Florida. The laws are helping the crocodiles survive.