

Reptiles Scavenger Hunt



MUSEUM-WIDE

Reptiles include turtles, lizards, snakes, crocodiles, and all of their relatives. There are over 9,000 different kinds of reptiles with *amazing adaptations* that help them find food and protect themselves from becoming a meal!

.....
Name

.....
Date

Starting your search in the **Rainforest** if it's open, keep an eye out for:

Geckos in the Rainforest

Keep a tally of each gecko species that you find:

- » How can you tell they are different species?
- » Can you guess where they spend most of their time?

Hint: Observe the patterns and colors of the geckos' skin.



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Masters of camouflage

Some geckos blend into their surroundings to hide from their predators or prey!

Chameleons in the Rainforest

Chameleons have incredible and unique adaptations that make them well-suited for life in the trees, where they hunt and find shelter. If the Rainforest is closed, head to African Hall to find some of these lizards!

- » What are two adaptations that help chameleons find and eat small insects?
- » What are two adaptations that make chameleons great tree climbers?

Hint: Look closely at their eyes, tail and feet!



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Did you know?

Chameleons can change color based on factors such as temperature or their mood!

Green Anaconda in the Amazon Flooded Rainforest

Check out the heaviest type of snake in the world, the green anaconda! This snake can grow to be 9 meters (29.5 feet) long, and weighs over 227 kilograms (550 pounds)! Believe it or not, the green anaconda is a good swimmer.

- » Why would being able to swim be an advantage for an anaconda?
- » How does the green anaconda capture and subdue its prey?



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Try out the anaconda squeeze!



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Pythons in the Water Planet Exhibit

Find the woma python, black-headed python, and centralian carpet python, which are found in the same display. Their identification labels are at knee level in the shadows. Most pythons have heat-sensing pits near their mouths and eat mammals.

- » How are the woma and black-headed pythons different from other pythons?
- » Why would heat sensors be a useful adaptation for some snakes, but not necessarily for others?



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Cousins of the boas

While most boa constrictors live in the Americas, pythons are more likely to be found in Asia, Africa, or Australia.

Alligator and Alligator Snapping Turtles in the Swamp

Our albino alligator is named Claude, and his lack of color was caused by a rare mutation in his DNA. Alligator skin normally contains a dark green pigment.

- » How does an alligator's skin color help it to survive? What consequences might this have for an albino alligator such as Claude?
- » What is one adaptation that makes alligators strong swimmers?
- » Notice the placement of Claude's eyes. How does this adaptation suit living in a swampy environment?
- » Spend a minute to closely observe a turtle. What physical or behavioral characteristics show how it has adapted to its surroundings?



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How old am I?

Claude was born in 1995 in Florida. Do some quick math!



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Built like a tank

Weighing over 150 lbs, alligator snapping turtles are the largest turtle in North America!

