

## Reptiles

Reptiles are a class of cold-blooded animals. Their skin is covered by scales. Cold-blooded animals can not regulate their own body temperature, so they react to the temperate of their surroundings.

When a cold-blooded animal gets too warm, they need to find shade or water to cool off. When a cold-blooded animal gets too cold, it needs to find sunlight or heat to warm up.

Reptiles have dry, scaly skin. Their scales help them hold in moisture so they can live in dry places - such as deserts. Scales help protect the reptile's bodies. A reptile's scales can be hard or soft, large or small. For example, a crocodile's back has large and bumpy scales, while a snake has small and smooth scales.

All reptiles are vertebrates, which means they have a backbone or spine. When reptiles are born, they look just like little adults.

Reptiles are born on land and breathe air with lungs. When reptiles are born, they are on their own without parents around to help.

There are over 8,000 species of reptiles, split into four main groups: turtles and tortoises; lizards and snakes; crocodiles and alligators; and the tuatara (which looks like a lizard but isn't a lizard).