



Reptiles and Frogs

Children are born scientists – they love to explore and discover. There are many activities that you can enjoy doing at home with your little scientist.

QUESTIONS

- What are reptiles?
- How many different species of reptiles do you know?
- What is a baby frog called?

TRY THIS AT HOME

Look For Lizard

See a video demonstration of this *Science Time* activity at www.questacon.edu.au

You Will Need

- Local lake or park
- A keen eye!

WHAT TO DO

1. Take your child to the local park or lake and look for lizards.
2. They will often hide when they hear a person, or any other animal approaching, so you will have to be quiet and look carefully.
3. Don't touch a wild lizard because it may bite. Just carefully take a close look.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Do this activity in the warmer months, not in winter. This is because many lizards hibernate (sleep) during winter.



DISCOVER MORE

The Australian National Botanical Gardens is a wonderful place to go looking for lizards and frogs. Walk around the gardens and you should see many native lizards and frogs. Remember, just look, don't touch!

DID YOU KNOW?

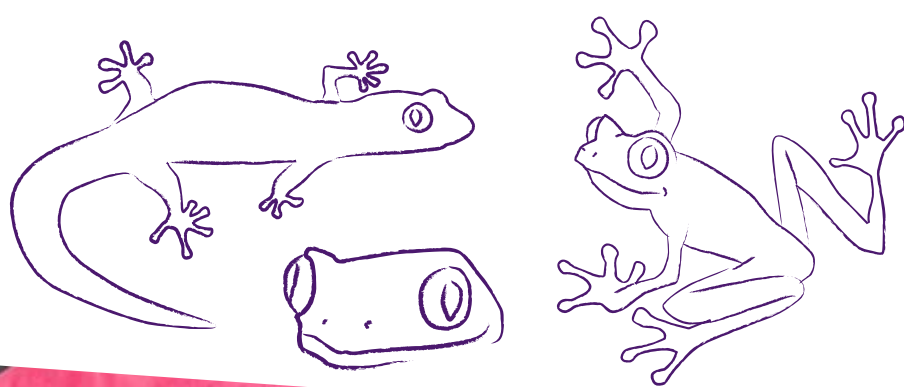
- Crocodiles, snakes, lizards and turtles belong to the reptile family. Reptiles all have cold blood, not like a mammal that has warm blood. Reptiles have to warm themselves in the sun. The world's largest reptile is the Australian Saltwater Crocodile which can grow to over 3 metres long.
- Baby frogs don't look like frogs. They are called tadpoles and live in water. As they grow they go through a process called metamorphosis, which means they change - growing legs and lungs, and change into a frog.
- If you have any questions regarding reptiles email Gerard at excitedparticles@questacon.edu.au.

Open 9am – 5pm every day.
Closed Christmas Day.
Admission fees apply.
King Edward Terrace, Canberra
t 02 6270 2893


Australian Government
Department of Innovation
Industry, Science and Research

Questacon
The National Science and Technology Centre

www.questacon.edu.au



TRY THESE OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Sock snake:** Use an old sock to make a snake puppet. Glue or sew on eyes and don't forget to make it a big tongue.
- **Egg carton crocodile:** Use at least two egg cartons. One six egg carton for a big mouth that opens and closes and the other for the body. Paint it green or brown, glue on eyes and attach a long tongue.
- **Snake moves:** Lie on the ground and try to slither like a snake. It will be very hard. Snakes can move without legs because they have about 100 vertebrae (back bones), whereas humans only have 25 vertebrae.
- **Jump like a frog:** Squat down and jump around. What noise does a frog make?

SING SONGS

Sing this song with your child. Don't forget to do the actions if you know them!

Glumph Went the Little Green Frog One Day

Glumph, glumph went the little green frog one day,
Glumph, glumph, went the little green frog.
Glumph, glumph, went the little green frog one day,
And his eyes went gloink, gloink, gloink

But we all know frogs go la-de-da-de-da,
la-de-da-de-da,
la-de-da-de-da.

READ BOOKS

Have fun finding more at your local library, book store or online.

- *The Magic School Bus Gets Cold Feet* by Scholastic Publishing
- *Science Kids Reptiles* by Belinda Weber
- *Everything Reptile: What Kids Really Want to Know About Reptiles* by Cherie Winner
- *My first Book of Reptiles and Amphibians* by Dee Phillips

GO ON AN EXCURSION

Go on a reptile and frog excursion! Here are some suggestions in the Canberra region.

- Canberra's National Zoo and Aquarium and look at the reptiles.
- Go to your local lake or pond and look for tadpoles. Catch a few and take them home to watch them grow into frogs. Don't forget to return them to the pond once they have turned into frogs!

INVESTIGATE WEBSITES

There are also many websites for children about reptiles and frogs. We suggest you start with:

- **Questacon** Watch the Science Time Reptile video at www.questacon.edu.au
- **Yahoo Kids** Facts about a large range of reptiles www.kids.yahoo.com/animals/reptiles
- **Smithsonian Zoo** A good range of in-depth facts and nice photos www.nationalzoo.si.edu
- **Jackie Mier's links** A list of teacher's resource links to other sites all about Australian reptiles www.teachers.ash.org.au
- **NASA:** www.nasascience.nasa.gov/kids