

REPTILE SURVEY: TRUE OR FALSE

Instructions: Read each statement to the class and ask students to write true or false on their paper. Review and discuss the answers as a class.

Arizona Academic Science Standards: SC03-S3C1-02, SC04-S1C1-02, SC03-S4C1-02, SC04-S4C1-02

1. **Reptiles are cold-blooded or ectothermic.**

True. Reptile body temperatures change according to the external environment. In order to maintain a safe body temperature range, reptiles will move from colder to warmer/warmer to colder to heat or cool their bodies.

2. **All lizards eat bugs.**

False. Although most lizards are carnivores and eat insects as well as other invertebrates, some lizards such as Chuckwallas are vegetarians and eat only plants. Gila monsters and Mexican beaded lizards eat small birds, lizard eggs, and small rodents.

3. **Most kinds of reptiles become endangered because people kill them for food and other products.**

False. These things do endanger some reptiles, but habitat loss and habitat fragmentation is the most serious problem endangering wild animals and plants.

4. **Some snakes eat other snakes.**

True. The king snake will eat other snakes including rattlesnakes.

5. **The Gila monster and the Mexican beaded lizard are the only venomous lizards in the world.**

True. The venom is used in defense and for subduing some prey. The venom glands are located in the lower jaw and venom is injected through grooves in the teeth while the Gila monster bites or chews. These

Sonoran Desert natives spend much of their time in burrows and rarely bite humans unless handled or disturbed.

6. All lizards have legs.

False. *Some lizards including the European legless lizard and California's legless lizard lack legs.*

7. Snakes have eyelids and are able to blink.

False. *Snakes do not have eyelids. Their eyes are protected by a clear scale (eyescale), which is replaced each time they shed.*

8. It is legal for you to take a wild desert tortoise home as a pet.

False. *Laws protect the desert tortoise. They cannot be collected, killed, bought, transported, imported or exported from Arizona without authorization by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.*

9. Some lizards can shed or drop their tail as a means of escaping from predators.

True. *Species that are able to do this have a weak point along the tail where bones, muscles and blood vessels are modified to allow an easy break. Frequently the predator will focus its attack on the still wiggling tail allowing the lizard to make a quick escape.*

10. Lizards and snakes are slimy.

False. *Reptiles have dry scaly skin. The scales are made of a substance called keratin. Our fingernails and a rhinoceros horn are also made of keratin.*

