



WILD CLASSROOM

Conservation in the Classroom

Protecting the Scaly and Slithery

March 9, 2022

1:30 pm EST / 10:30 am PST

Recommended grade levels: 2–6

Watch live on [Conservation in the Classroom](#)

View recording on the [Wild Classroom YouTube channel](#)

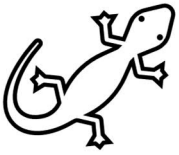
When you hear the term “endangered species,” what animals come to mind? It might not be animals like crocodiles and snakes, but did you know that over 20% of reptiles are threatened with extinction? Arnaud Lyet is a conservation scientist and an enthusiast of all things scaly and slithery. Join us as he sheds some light on species that shed their skin and why they need our protection.

The Presenter



Arnaud Lyet

WWF-US Wildlife Conservation Lead
Specialist



BELL-RINGERS

Help prepare your learners by introducing the topic with these warm-up questions.

Identify

Circle the names of animals that are characterized as *reptiles*:

SNAKE

FROG

TUATARA

LIZARD

TURTLE

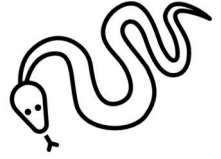
IGUANA

CROCODILE

SALAMANDER

CHAMELEON

NEWT



Imagine

Millions of years ago, the ancestors of our modern snakes used to have legs. What do you think snakes looked like before they evolved to not have legs? Draw a picture here:

Explain

Reptiles have unique characteristics. Describe how each trait below may benefit reptiles by helping them survive in different environments:

- Scales: _____
- Lungs: _____
- Cold-blooded: _____

Brainstorm

Degradation and loss of habitats are some of the greatest threats that reptiles and amphibians face. What are three ways that their habitats can be harmed or completely lost?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Grass snake ©Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden



Planning to watch the event live? Write your question(s) for the presenter here:

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Use these web articles and videos to provide background information to your learners on endangered reptiles.

- Web page: [Reptile skins](#)
- Web page: [Amphibians and reptiles face more threats than other at-risk species](#)
- Web page: [In search of reptiles and amphibians](#)
- Web page: [Endangered reptiles](#)
- Web page: [Marine iguana](#)
- Web page: [Giant tortoise](#)

HOW TO HELP

- Web article: [Green tips](#)
- Citizen science app: [Seek by iNaturalist](#)



Marine iguana ©Antonio Busiello / WWF-US

ACTIVITIES

Check out these lesson plans to supplement the content from the event.

[Sea turtle toolkit](#)

Use lessons from the sea turtle toolkit, such as “How Low Can They Go,” to educate your learners about the unique abilities of these reptiles and how to protect their ocean habitats.

Grades 3–5



Hawksbill sea turtle ©Jürgen Freund / WWF



[Living Planet Report 2020: Youth Edition](#)

The Living Planet Report is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet released every two years. Use the 2020 youth edition of the report along with our corresponding discussion questions and activities to teach about threats facing our environment and species, including reptiles.

Grades 6–12

[“Our Fresh Water” discussion guide](#)

The “Our Fresh Water” episode of the Netflix series *Our Planet* looks at how our water use is impacting freshwater habitats and species all over the world. Use this discussion guide to further the conversation on the importance of protecting freshwater resources.

Grades 5–12



Yacare caiman ©Andre Dib / WWF-Brazil

ASSESSMENTS

Conclude your lesson on reptiles with these resources and fun assessment tools.

Kahoot!

- [All About Reptiles and Amphibians](#)
- [All About Sea Turtles](#)

Protecting the Scaly and Slithery worksheet

Use the worksheet on the following page as an assignment or a quiz following the viewing of the Conservation in the Classroom event.

Answer key (questions on the next page):

- 1) c
- 2) *venomous* describes an organism that injects poison into you through a sting or bite; an organism that is *poisonous* affects you when you consume a toxin that they produce
- 3) a
- 4) true
- 5) a and b
- 6) a, b, c, d
- 7) false



Central American Tree Boa ©WWF-US / Keith Arnold



Protecting the Scaly and Slithery

Answer the following questions after learning about reptiles.

1. Which of the following traits is a characteristic of reptiles?
 - a. breathes through skin
 - b. born as tadpoles
 - c. has scales
 - d. has slimy skin

2. Explain the difference between venomous and poisonous:

3. What is the largest reptile in the world by weight?
 - a. saltwater crocodile
 - b. green anaconda
 - c. Komodo dragon
 - d. hawksbill sea turtle

4. True or False: Birds can be classified as reptiles.

5. What are two reasons why reptiles shed their skin?
 - a. to get rid of parasites such as ticks
 - b. because their skin doesn't grow with them
 - c. to attract mates
 - d. to defend themselves from predators

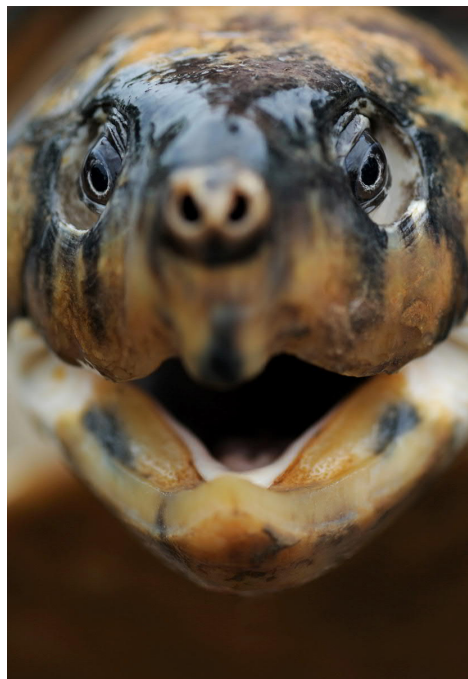
6. Which of the following is a threat that reptiles face? Circle all that apply.
 - a. habitat loss
 - b. pollution
 - c. disease
 - d. climate change

7. True or False: Reptiles are able to survive underwater because they breathe through gills.

8. Name your favorite reptile and explain why it's your favorite. This will inspire others to also have appreciation for this species.

Favorite reptile: _____

Why: _____



Big-headed Amazon River Turtle

©Staffan Widstrand / WWF