

Name: _____

Reptiles and Amphibians

by Guy Belleranti

Take a look at the four animals pictures below. Do you know which ones are reptiles and which ones are amphibians?



The chameleon is an unusual lizard that can change the color of its scaly body. It has a long, sticky tongue for catching insects. It also has a prehensile¹ tail. Wild chameleons can be found in warm habitats in Europe, Africa, and Asia.



This red-eyed tree frog is from the rainforests of South America. When it hatched it was a tiny tadpole that breathed water like a fish. It grew into an adult frog that breathes air and climbs trees.



This spotted salamander looks like a lizard, but it's really not a lizard at all. It began its life living in water, but moved onto land as an adult. It hides in damp, wet places throughout the forests of North America.



This gharial is an animal from India. It is similar to an alligator or crocodile. Because its snout is long and slender, its bite is not as powerful as that of its alligator and crocodile cousins. It lives in rivers and hunts fish.

If you're someone who can't tell which are reptiles and which are amphibians, don't worry, you're not alone. People often confuse these two groups of vertebrates, so let's discuss the differences between them. With a little knowledge, you will quickly be able to spot the differences.

Reptiles include snakes, lizards, turtles, and crocodilians. Amphibians include frogs, toads, caecilians², salamanders and newts.

but
jelly

¹ A l
brai

² Cc

and in the rivers and streams of Africa, Asia and South America.

eggs,
d

soil

~ PREVIEW ~

Please log in or register to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

When a reptile hatches from its egg, it looks like a smaller version of the adult reptile. Its body doesn't change much as it grows. When an amphibian hatches, on the other hand, it doesn't look anything like an adult. Amphibians begin their life as larvae - usually tadpoles that swim in the water. When they get older they grow legs and transform into frogs, toads, caecilians, newts, or salamanders. These changes are called metamorphosis.

Amph
most
spec

water
is dif
does
can be w
and dry.



PREVIEW

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

ives.
ts,

th
kin
at
skin

Reptiles can live in many different types of habitats, whereas amphibians cannot. Reptiles can be found in temperate and tropical climates around the world. Some reptiles, like crocodiles and sea turtles, spend most of their lives in water. Others, like iguanas and rattlesnakes, can live in dry, hot deserts. Amphibians, on the other hand, usually spend most of their lives in damp places near water.

About the Author





Guy Belleranti works as a docent at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences working with animals and teaching others.

Name: _____

Reptiles and Amphibians

by Guy Belleranti

1. Complete the table.

				
Name of Animal Species	chameleon			
Reptile or Amphibian?		amphibian		

2. _____ is the change that an amphibian goes through as it develops from a larval tadpole to adult.

3. Define prehensile.

4. How can you tell the difference between a reptile's body and an amphibian's body, simply by looking closely at it?

5.



~ PREVIEW ~

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

6.

- c. beneath rocks near a marsh d. in a rocky, dry cave

Name: _____

Reptiles and Amphibians

by Guy Belleranti



Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

_____ 1. rainforest

_____ 2. damp

_____ 3. cousins

_____ 4. knowledge

a. kept away from harm

b. able to grasp objects

c. area with mild temperatures; in between the hottest and coldest parts of the Earth

d. hot, rainy habitat with lots of plant life



PREVIEW

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

live underground

_____ 8. caecilians

h. slightly wet

ANSWER KEY

Reptiles and Amphibians

by Guy Belleranti

1. Complete the table.



~ **PREVIEW** ~

Please log in or register to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

ANSWER KEY

Reptiles and Amphibians

by Guy Belleranti



Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.



~ PREVIEW ~

Please log in or register to download
the printable version of this worksheet.