

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Iguanas

by Erin Ryan

Iguanas are large lizards found in several southern states, Central and South America, the Caribbean Islands and Africa. Some types of iguanas live in tropical rain forests, others live in deserts, and there are some that live on rocks along the ocean. One special adaptation they have is that they can be different colors from bright green, to dark brown to help them hide in grass, trees, in water, and along rocks.



Iguanas lay up to fifty eggs at a time, and baby iguanas are usually bright green. Iguanas can grow to be up to seven feet long if you measure them from their nose all the way to the end of their long tail. They can live for up to twenty years. They are cold-blooded reptiles, so they have to soak up the sun's rays during the day to stay warm when the sun sets. Iguanas are omnivores. They like to eat leaves and fruits best, but they also eat insects and sometimes they even eat small animals. Iguanas can run very fast, climb trees easily with their long claws and they are great swimmers. If a big animal catches an iguana, its tail can break off and

The reasons are because iguanas



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Some people even keep iguanas for pets. Pet iguanas need large cages, because they can grow very long. Many people feed their iguanas dark green, leafy vegetables. Because they're reptiles, they need special lights to keep their body temperature warm and to make sure they stay healthy.

If you ever visit places with tropical climates, be on the lookout for iguanas. They're one of the largest and most interesting lizards you'll ever see.

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1. How long do iguanas live?
- a. up to 3 years
  - b. up to 5 years
  - c. up to 10 years
  - d. up to 20 years

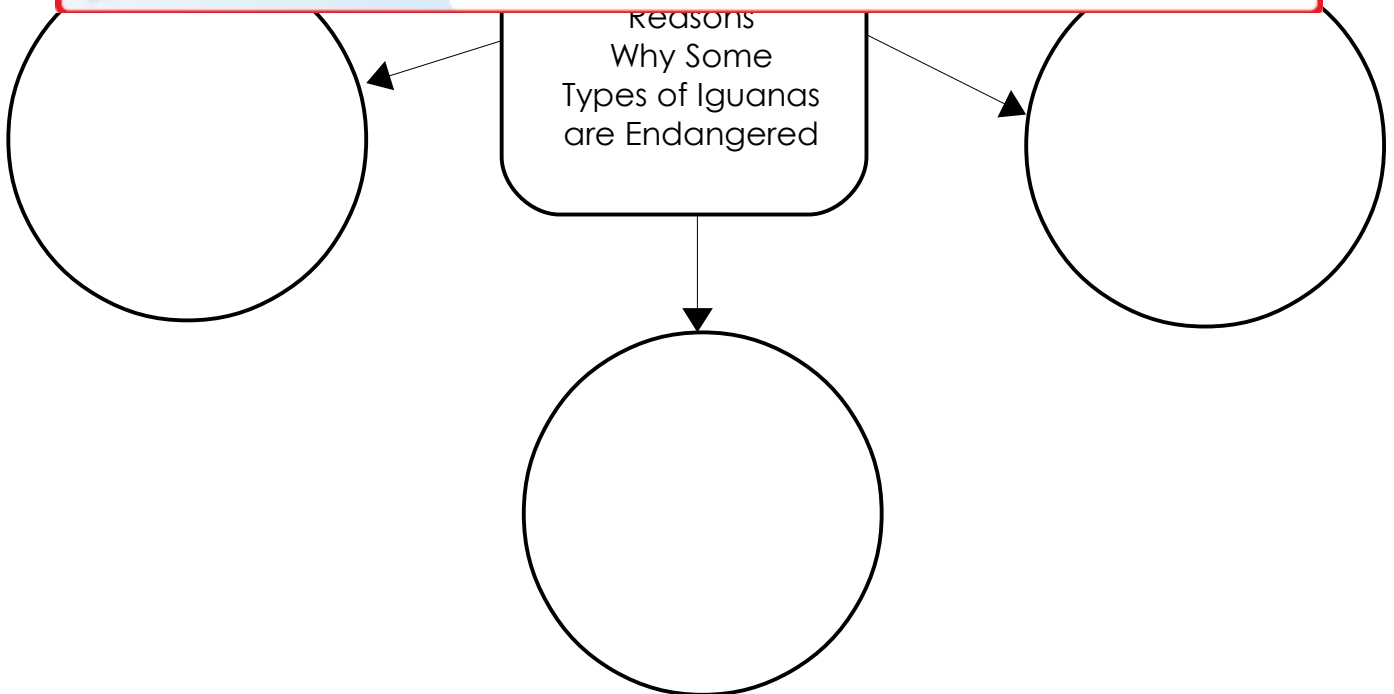
2. What would probably happen if a predator caught an iguana by the tail?

3.



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# ANSWER KEY

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