

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Amphibians and Reptiles

- **Amphibians** spend some time in the water and some time on land. They need to keep their skin moist so the slimy mucus that covers their body doesn't dry out. They absorb water through their skin because they can't actually drink water. And although they breathe through their mouth, they also breathe through their skin!
- A **salamander** can detach its tail or a leg to get away from a predator. But in a few weeks, the tail or limb will grow back! Some salamanders don't have lungs or gills for breathing. Instead, they breathe only through their skin! The olm, a foot-long salamander, can live to be up to one hundred years old!
- Over 8,240 species of **reptiles** live in every part of the world except Antarctica. Although they are referred to as cold-blooded, a reptile's blood isn't really cold. It's just that reptiles can't regulate their body temperature on their own. They depend on the sun to warm them up and shade to cool them down.
- **Turtles** have been on Earth for about 215 million years! Some, but not all, turtles can hide their head in their shell. And with some species of turtle, the surrounding air temperature controls whether a baby in its egg is male or female. Colder temperatures produce males, and warmer temperatures produce females!
- **Lizards** are closely related to snakes. Some lizards even look like snakes because they have no legs. One way to tell the difference is: lizards have eyelids and ear openings, but snakes don't. Lizards and snakes both smell with their tongue. Some lizards have sticky toe pads so they can climb easily!

Underwater Animals

- There are more than 32,000 different species of **fish** living in the world's oceans, lakes, rivers, and ponds. Fish don't get wrinkles as they age, but they do get rings. Their scales grow year by year, forming growth rings that can be counted much like tree rings.
- **Sharks** replace their teeth constantly. In fact, they have rows of teeth waiting in line. Great white sharks have 3,000 teeth at the ready. The biggest fish in the world is the whale shark. It can weigh up to 90,000 pounds!
- **Starfish** are not fish, so they are often called sea stars. Starfish tend to live in shallow waters and tide pools. If one of their limbs breaks off, they can grow a new one. With some species, the limb can grow into a new starfish. Some starfish are brightly colored, and some can grow to be three feet wide!
- **Jellyfish** are 95 percent water. They do not have bones, heads, hearts, or brains! They live from a few hours to a few months, depending on the species. Box jellyfish are so transparent that you can see right through them. Their sting is painful and can even kill a person. Jellyfish can sting even when they're dead!



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