



A Home for the Reptiles

Grade Pre-K through 2

Duration 20-30 minutes

Overview This classroom activity introduces the concepts of animal classes, habitat and animal homes and can serve as preparation for a DEC classroom program

Goals Students will identify the four major groups of reptiles
Students will identify the habitats where reptiles live
Students will identify that some reptiles can live in more than one habitat

Subjects Science

Standards **NYS Elementary Science Core Curriculum**

Standard 1: Scientific Inquiry

Key Idea 1: The central purpose of scientific inquiry is to develop explanations of natural phenomena in a continuing, creative process.

Standard 4: The Living Environment

Key Idea 2: Organisms inherit genetic information in a variety of ways that result in continuity of structure and function between parents and offspring.

Key Idea 3: Individual organisms and species change over time.

Key Idea 6: Plants and animals depend on each other and their physical environment.

Key Themes Reptiles

Vocabulary reptiles, vertebrates, cold-blooded, habitat

Materials Pictures of animals from each order of reptiles (snake, lizard, turtle and crocodilian - included)
Pictures or posters of different habitats (optional)
Crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Background

Reptiles are vertebrates, like birds, mammals and amphibians. In addition, reptiles:

- are cold-blooded
- lay eggs on land
- are covered with scales
- are divided into four (major) groups
- some eat plants, some eat animals and some eat both

Reptiles include crocodilians, turtles, snakes and lizards.

Activity

Students' familiarity with animals will vary. Adjust for your class.

Reptiles are a class of vertebrates (animals with backbones) with certain commonalities. They are all cold-blooded, have dry skin that is covered in scales, and females lay eggs on land. There are four major groups of reptiles: turtles, snakes, lizards and crocodilians.

Reptiles are found in various habitats around the world. Explain to the students that the place an animal lives is called its habitat. This is the place where the animal finds all of the food it needs, all of the water it needs, and a home to live in.

Explain to the students that they will make pictures showing where reptiles live. Each student will receive four drawings of reptiles (one each of the four major groups of reptiles). Have the students color the reptile then fill in the page with a habitat this animal may be found in. Encourage the students to be creative, yet realistic. For example, some lizards can live in a desert habitat while others are found in the rainforest.

If students need guidance, show them pictures or posters of reptiles in their various habitats. Open the class up to a discussion about the different kinds of reptiles they know about. Steer the discussion towards where these animals might live and why.

Resources

Critters of New York – Pocket Guide (free with subscription to *Conservationist* magazine) <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/65514.html>
Amphibians & Reptiles <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/277.html>
Teacher Information <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/66.html>









