

## Reptiles

- Reptiles (meaning “to creep”) live on land, at sea, and under the ground, and share some common characteristics. They have lived on earth for over 300 million years!
- Reptiles are egg-laying animals, although some snakes do bear live young – the eggs hatch inside the mother’s womb.
- Reptile eggs are amniotic. That means that they have a fluid-filled bag surrounding the embryo – this prevents the eggs drying out, so they can lay eggs on dry land unlike amphibians like frogs that have to lay eggs in water or in moist places. Bird eggs are also amniotic.
- Reptile skin has scales, with no hair or feathers. Their scaly skin protects them from drying out. Reptiles shed their skins as they grow, often in one piece.
- Reptiles have claws on their five toes, except for legless reptiles such as snakes. ,They have four legs (tetrapods), or their ancestors had four legs (as snakes evolved they lost their legs, but they are still tetrapods).
- Most have short legs and swing their back from side to side when they walk.
- Most reptiles have three-chambered hearts. Alligators and crocodiles, however, have a four-chambered heart like birds and mammals.
- Reptiles are cold-blooded animals, and use the surrounding environment to warm and cool themselves. Cold-blooded animals require much less energy to survive than warm-blooded animals, so technically they’re more energy efficient!
- Reptiles are vertebrates, meaning they have a backbone. Birds, mammals, and amphibians have backbones, but they don’t share other reptile characteristics.

Reptiles are more closely related to birds than other kinds of animals. In fact, many scientists believe that birds have evolved from dinosaurs, so on the basis of ancestry, birds are reptiles!

The four main reptile groups are the Turtles and Tortoises, Snakes and Lizards, Crocodiles and Alligators, and Tuatara (a single species more primitive than other reptile groups and found only in a group of small islands near New Zealand). Tortoises have the longest life span in the reptile order; some can live more than 150 years.

Reptiles found in Blue Sky include several species of snakes and lizards, and the occasional non-native turtle. There are no crocodiles in Blue Sky!

## Amphibians

Amphibians were the first land animals and evolved hundreds of millions of years ago from fish. Amphibians include animals such as frogs, toads, and salamanders. Many of their characteristics show that they are still reliant on water for at least part of their lives.

- Amphibians are egg-laying animals. Unlike reptiles and birds, amphibians, like frogs, have to lay eggs in water or in moist places because their eggs dry out easily.
- Amphibian skin is usually smooth and slimy, without scales, feathers, and hair.
- Amphibians also breathe partly through their skin, so it has to remain moist to aid in breathing.
- Amphibians have a complex life cycle. They give birth to young that do not resemble their parents (unlike reptiles who are tiny replicas of their parents). Young have to go through the process of metamorphosis before becoming adult.
- Amphibians have three-chambered hearts, unlike some reptiles and birds that have four-chambered hearts.
- Amphibians are cold-blooded animals like reptiles and insects.
- Amphibians often vocalize, for example the 'chorus' of frogs. This sets them apart from reptiles, whose sound is very restricted.

A number of other characteristics can be found in amphibians, but they are found in other animal groups also.

Amphibians are vertebrates, meaning they have a backbone. Reptiles, mammals, and birds have backbones, but they don't share other amphibian characteristics.

There are three main groups of amphibians, and of these, two are found in Blue Sky. They are the salamanders and the frogs and toads. The third group, the caecilians are limbless amphibians that live only in tropical forests.

# Blue Sky Ecological Reserve Herpetological List

## Class AMPHIBIA

## Amphibians

### Order CAUDATA

### Salamanders

#### Family SALAMANDRIDAE

California Newt

#### Newts

*Taricha torosa*

#### Family PLETHODONTIDAE

CA Slender Salamander  
Garden Slender Salamander  
Arboreal Salamander

#### Salamanders

*Batrachoseps attenuatus*  
*Batrachoseps major*  
*Aneides lugubris*

### Order ANURA

### Frogs and Toads

#### Family PELOBATIDAE

Western Spadefoot

#### Spadefoot Toads

*Spea hammondi*

#### Family BUFONIDAE

Western Toad

#### True Toads

*Bufo boreas*

#### Family HYLIDAE

California Treefrog  
Pacific Treefrog

#### Tree Frogs

*Hyla cadaverina*  
*Hyla regilla*

#### Family RANIDAE

Bullfrog

#### True Frogs

*Rana catesbeiana*\*

## Class REPTILIA

## Reptiles

### Order TESTUDINES

### Turtles

#### Family EMYDIDAE

Red-eared Slider

#### Box and Water Turtles

*Trachemys scripta*\*

### Order SQUAMATA

### Lizards and Snakes

#### Family GEKKONIDAE

Western Banded Gecko

#### Geckos

*Coleonyx variegatus*

#### Family PHRYNOSOMATIDAE

Coast Horned Lizard  
Common Side-blotched Lizard  
Western Fence Lizard  
Granite Spiny Lizard

*Phrynosoma coronatum*  
*Uta stansburiana*  
*Sceloporus occidentalis*  
*Sceloporus orcutti*

**Family XANTUSIIDAE**

Granite Night Lizard

**Family SCINCIDAE**

Western Skink

Gilbert's Skink

**Family TEIIDAE**

Western Whiptail

Orange-throated Whiptail

**Family ANGUIDAE**

Southern Alligator Lizard

**Family ANNIELLIDAE**

California Legless Lizard

**Family LEPTOTYPHLOPIDAE**

Western Blind Snake

**Family BOIDAE**

Rosy Boa

**Family COLUBRIDAE**

San Diego Night Snake

CA Kingsnake

W. Long-nosed Snake

CA Black-headed Snake

Western Lyre Snake

Coachwhip or Red Racer

California Whipsnake

or Striped Racer

CA Glossy Snake

Gopher Snake

Spotted Leaf-nosed Snake

Ring-necked Snake

W. Yellow-bellied Racer

**Family NATRICIDAE**

Two-striped Garter Snake

**Family VIPERIDAE**

Western Rattlesnake

S.W. Speckled Rattlesnake

Red Diamond Rattlesnake

**Night Lizards***Xantusia henshawi***Skinks***Eumeces skiltonianus**Eumeces gilberti***Whiptails and Relatives***Aspidoscelis tigris**Aspidoscelis hyperythra***Alligator Lizards***Elgaria multicarinata***California Legless Lizards***Anniella pulchra***Slender Blind Snakes***Leptotyphlops humilis***Boas***Charina trivirgata***Egg-laying Snakes***Hypsiglena torquata klauberi**Lampropeltis getula**Rhinocheilus lecontei**Tantilla planiceps**Trimorphodon biscutatus**Masticophis flagellum**Masticophis lateralis**Arizona elegans**Pituophis catenifer**Phyllorhynchus decurtatus**Diadophis punctatus**Coluber constrictor***Live-bearing Snakes***Thamnophis hammondi***Vipers***Crotalus viridis**Crotalus mitchellii**Crotalus ruber*