

Vocabulary – Reptiles

alligator	a thick-skinned reptile with a wide u-shaped snout; lives mostly in fresh water
cold-blooded	keeping a body temperature that is almost the same as the surrounding air
crocodile	a thick-skinned reptile with a long pointed v-shaped snout; lives mostly in salt water; fourth tooth in lower jaw sticks up over upper lip
egg	an oval or round object from which a smaller version of a reptile is born
herpetologist	a person who studies reptiles
lizard	a reptile closely related to snakes; usually have a small head, short neck and long body and tail; most have moveable eyelids
reptile	an animal that has scaly skin and lays soft-shelled eggs on land
scales	small stiff plates made of keratin that grow out of a reptile's skin to help provide protection and keep the skin from drying out

snake	a reptile with a long slender flexible body, and no legs, eyelids or ear flaps
terrapin	a reptile with a domed shell; lives near swampy water, but spends time on land and water
tortoise	a slow-moving reptile with round stumpy feet and a domed shell; spends most of its time on land
tuatara	a one-of-a-kind reptile found only in New Zealand; looks like a lizard, but most closely related to a species of extinct dinosaur; has crest of spiky scales down the center of its back and a "third eye" on top of its head
turtle	a slow-moving reptile with webbed feet and a domed shell; spends most of its time in water
vertebrate	an animal with a backbone; reptiles are vertebrates