

# Scaly or Slimy?

## Reptile or Amphibian?

**What is the difference between the two groups?**

### What Is a Reptile?

A reptile is an animal that has hard, dry skin. Turtles are the only reptiles that have shells.

Most reptiles have clawed feet and walk on four legs. Can you name a reptile that has no legs? A snake! Other reptiles include alligators, crocodiles, and lizards.

Most reptiles lay eggs on land. Baby reptiles hatch from the eggs. A leaf-tailed gecko lays two eggs at a time. The corn snake lays up to 30 eggs at once! The boa constrictor is a snake that does not lay eggs. It gives birth to baby snakes.

### What Is an Amphibian?

An amphibian is an animal that spends part of its life in water and part on land. Most have smooth, wet skin. Frogs, toads, newts, and salamanders are amphibians.

Most amphibians hatch from eggs. The eggs are usually in or near water. Young amphibians breathe through gills. When they get older, they breathe with lungs. Most adult amphibians live on land.

For example, you young frogs that hatch from eggs are called tadpoles. Tadpoles live in water and move like fish. After they grow legs, they can hop on land.

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

**Directions:** Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. What is an amphibian?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the difference between the places where reptiles lay their eggs and where amphibians lay theirs?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Based on information in the passage, what is the difference between how reptiles and amphibians move?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is this passage mostly about?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

*When they are young, amphibians breathe underwater by using their gills.*

What? amphibians

5. (do) What?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

6. When?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

7. How?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Most reptiles lay eggs, \_\_\_\_\_ boa constrictors give birth to live young.

- A but
- B because
- C so

**Directions:** Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **hatch** (hatch): to come out of an egg.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **hatch**.
- a. At the farm, the children saw the baby chicks hatch from eggs and walk around.
  - b. In order for the eggs to hatch, the mama bird first had to sit on them to keep them warm.
  - c. The frogs hatched from their eggs in the pond and began to swim around.
  - d. While hatching, the baby bird had to break through the shell of the egg.
  - e. The snakes hatched from their eggs and slid out into the field.

10. Which picture best demonstrates the word "hatch"?

