

## Class Reptilia

Live throughout the whole world in a variety of habitats except for the coldest regions

Snakes kill larger numbers of insects and small rodents.

An alligator is approximately 8 feet long but has a brain the size of a walnut

Jan 3 - 3:15 PM

## **Strong, bony skeletons and toes with claws**

The move on land easier than amphibians because their legs are position more vertically so they can support more weight.

Claws allow them to get a good grip on the ground and run quickly for short distances

Jan 3 - 3:16 PM

## **Ectodermic Metabolism**

*outside skin pertaining*

The cannot generate their own heat so they absorb it from their surroundings  
Reptile's body temperature is close to that of its environment.

They can move around to regulate temperature

Jan 3 - 3:17 PM

## **Dry, scaly skin, almost watertight**

Their light, flexible scales overlap and create an almost watertight layer

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## **Amniotic eggs, almost watertight**

An amniotic egg contains both a water supply and a food supply

The shell is watertight so it does not dry out

Most reptiles, all birds, and 3 species of mammals reproduce by means of amniotic eggs

Jan 3 - 3:17 PM

## **Respiration through well-developed lungs**

Reptiles are more active than amphibians require more oxygen for metabolism

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**Lungs**-The scaly skin does not allow for gas exchange. Most lungs have chambers called alveoli (increase the surface area) Also they have strong muscles in their rib cage for moving air into and out of lungs

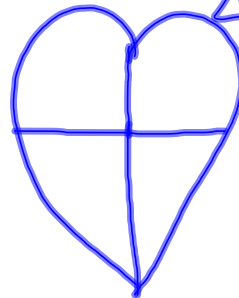
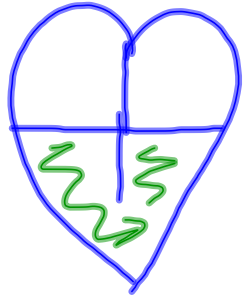
Jan 3 - 3:24 PM

## Heart

The right and the left ventricle are partially divided.

Crocodiles and Alligators have a completely divided ventricle.

Reptile



Jan 3 - 3:18 PM

## Internal Fertilization

The eggs are fertilized inside the female  
Internal fertilization keeps the eggs from

drying out

Many reptiles are oviparous (young  
hatch from eggs)

The eggs are deposited somewhere and the  
environment incubate them

Jan 3 - 3:18 PM

Ovoviviparous- female retains the eggs  
inside until almost hatching or the eggs  
actually hatch inside the female's  
body

Some snakes and lizards are like this

Jan 3 - 3:18 PM