



Herpetology

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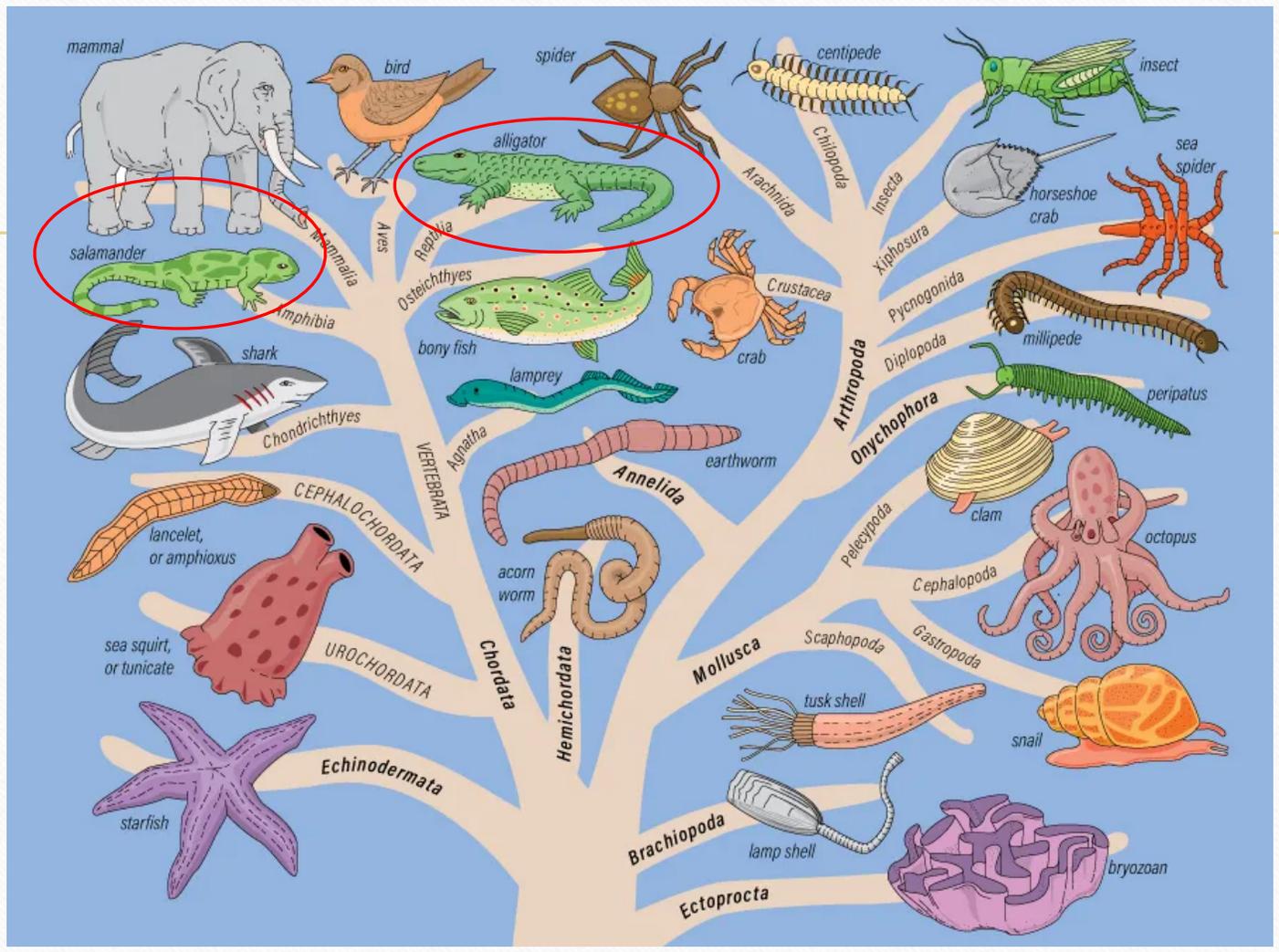
Herpetology

From Greek ἑρπετόν *herpetón*,
meaning "creeping animal"

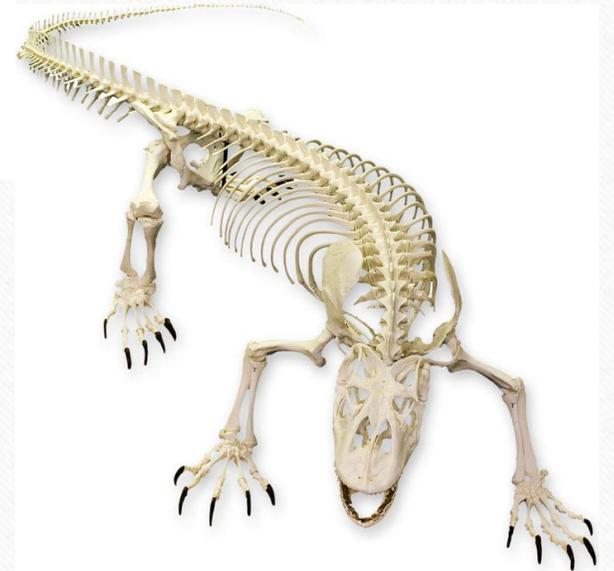
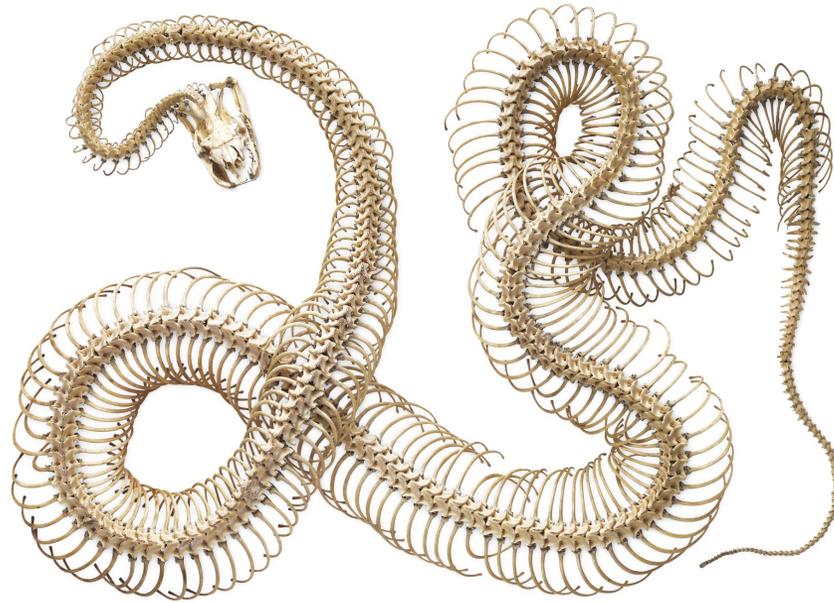
The study of

The branch of zoology concerned with the study
of amphibians (including frogs, toads, salamanders, newts))
and reptiles (including snakes, lizards, turtles, terrapins, tortoises, crocodilians,
and the tuataras).

Phylogeny Tree



Vertebrates



Ectothermic (Cold Blooded)



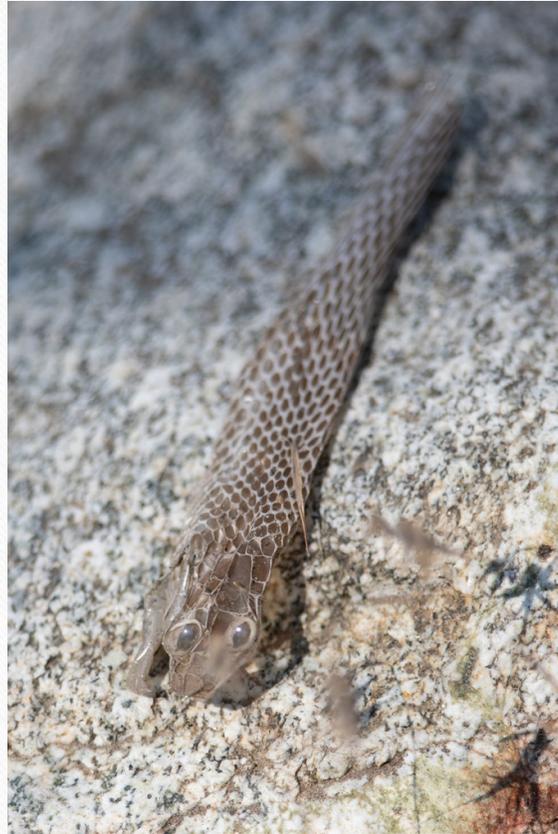
- Ectotherms can't regulate their own body temperature and rely on their surroundings to raise or lower their body temperature.
- They require less food than endotherms that need to constantly burn energy to keep their body temperature.
- This is why lizards often are seen basking on rocks in the mornings, or snakes are drawn to warm highways in the evening.

Brumation

- Brumation is to reptiles as what hibernation is to mammals.
- Colder temperatures slow down reptile's metabolism causing them to become lethargic.
- They will take shelter underground, in crack crevices, in leaf litter and sometimes other animal's burrows.
- It is not a true deep sleep, they will still eat and drink on warmer days during dormancy.
- If the temperature is too hot, they can go into a period of estivation.

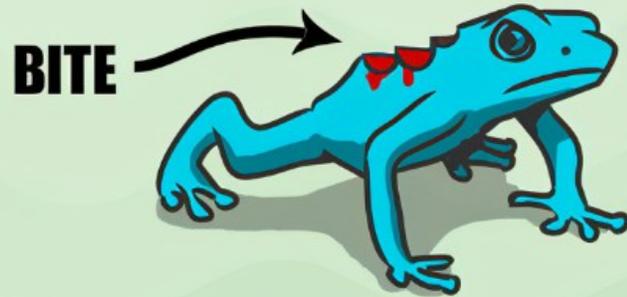
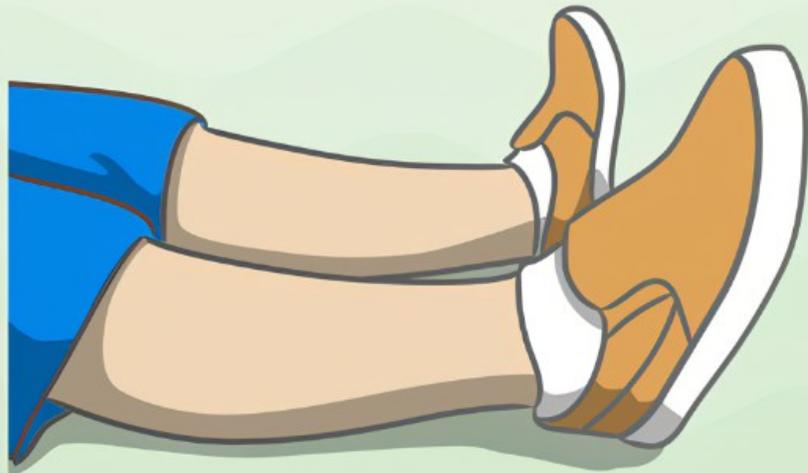


Shedding

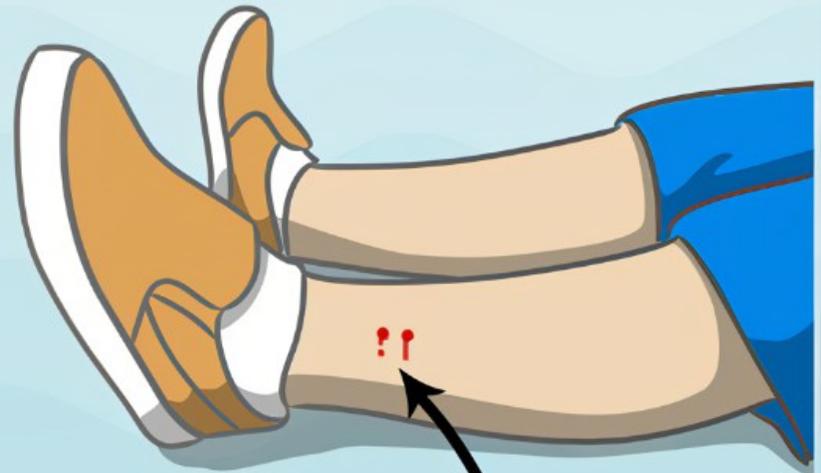


- As reptiles and amphibians grow they shed their skin, this is part of the growing process when their old skin becomes too tight.
- Snakes usually shed their skin in one piece, like crawling out of a sock. Shedding in pieces usually only happens if there's a problem with their environment.
- Lizards usually shed in pieces, usually over the course of a few days to a week.
- Amphibians also shed but immediately eat their skin to get the nutrients and moisture from it.

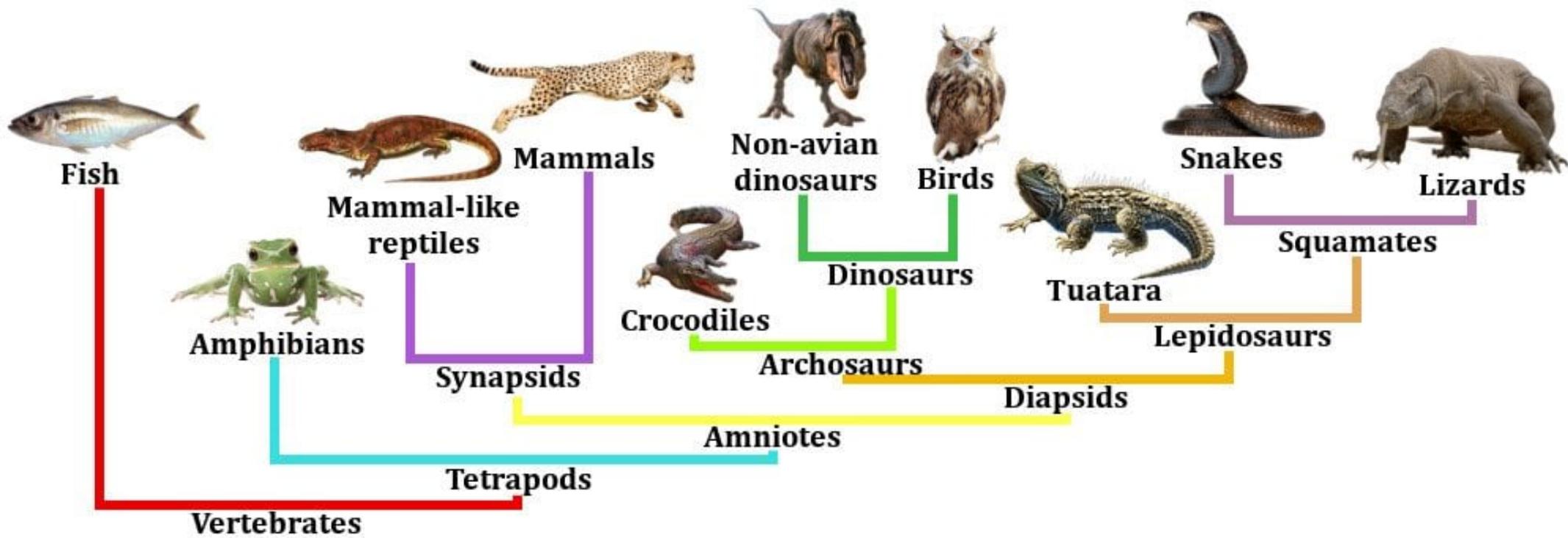
POISONOUS



VENOMOUS



The Reptile Family Tree



Taxonomy

↳ Animals (Kingdom Animalia)

↳ Chordates (Phylum Chordata)

↳ Vertebrates (Subphylum Vertebrata)

↳ Reptiles (Class Reptilia)

↳ Snakes and Lizards (Order Squamata)

↳ Lizards (Suborder Sauria)

↳ Phrynosomatid Lizards (Family Phrynosomatidae)

↳ Sceloporine Lizards (Subfamily Sceloporinae)

↳ Spiny Lizards (Genus *Sceloporus*)

↳ **Western Fence Lizard** (*Sceloporus occidentalis*)

All subspecies added to the database

[Info](#)

↳ Island Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis* ssp. *becki*)

↳ San Joaquin Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis* ssp. *biseriatus*)

↳ Coast Range Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis* ssp. *bocourtii*)

↳ Great Basin Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis* ssp. *longipes*)

↳ Northwestern Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis* ssp. *occidentalis*)

↳ Sierra Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis* ssp. *taylori*)



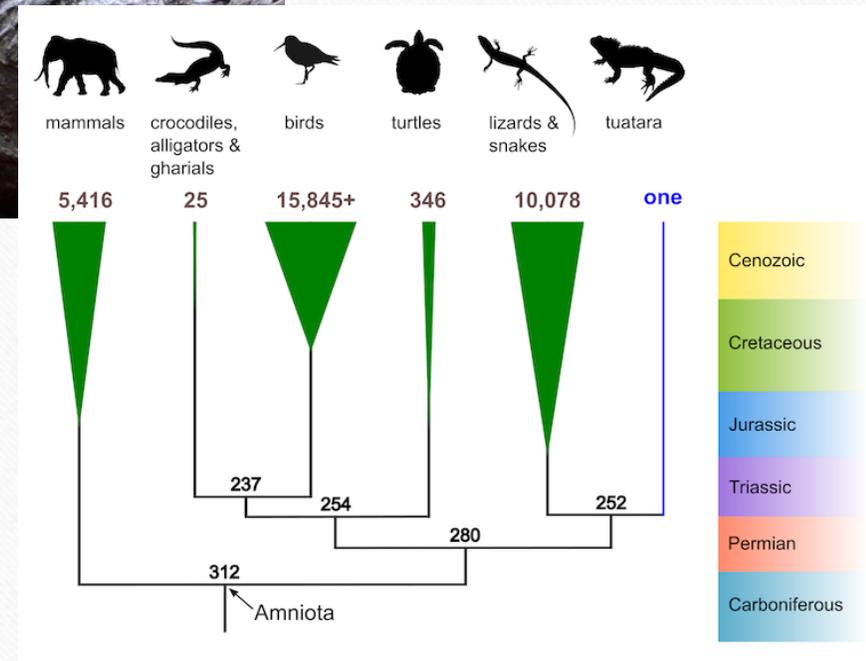
Crocodylians

- Been around since the time of the dinosaurs.
- Contains: alligators, crocodiles, caimans and gharials
- Ectotherms (cold-blooded)
- Very large
- No visible ears but excellent hearing
- Carnivores



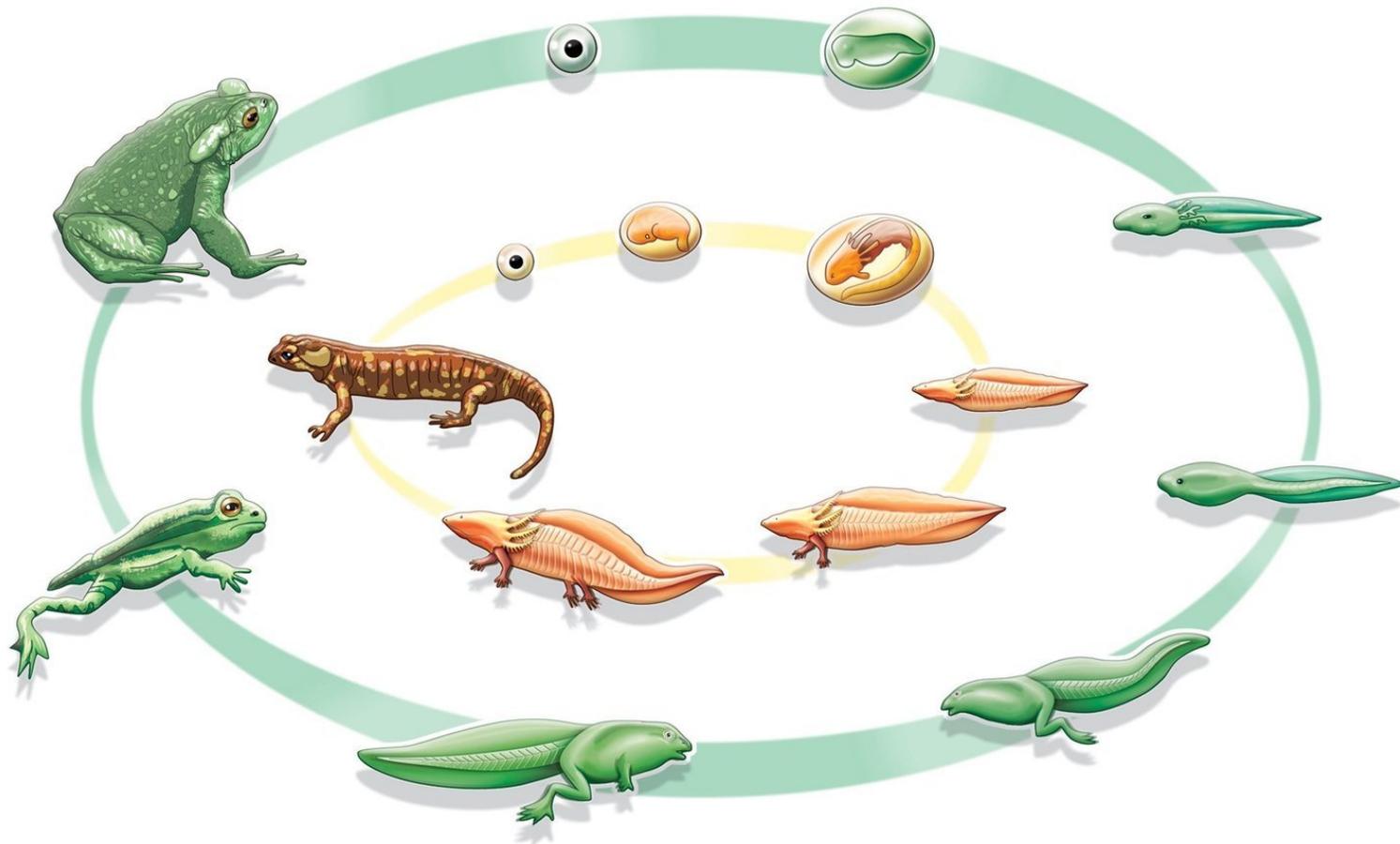
Tuatara

- Looks like a lizard but is part of their own separate group.
- Closest relatives are an extinct group that lived alongside dinosaurs.
- Has a third eye known as a “parietal eye” on the top of their heads.
- Native to New Zealand
- Nocturnal
- Second row of upper teeth.



What makes an animal an amphibian?

- Amphibians are vertebrates.
- Their skin is smooth and slimy.
- Amphibians are ectotherms (cold-blooded).
- They have a complex life cycle (larval and adult stages).
- Amphibians breathe through their skin, as well as their lungs in some cases.
- Many species of amphibians vocalize.



Newts and Salamanders

- Type of amphibian that has a “lizard-like” appearance.
- Both adults and young have tails.
- No claws on hands or feet.
- Newts are a type of salamander that typically spend more time on land and have bumpy skin
- Salamanders have different ways of breathing, some keep gills their whole life, some develop lungs, others don't have either and breathe through their skin.
- Some salamanders spend their larval stage in their egg and only emerge as small adults.
- Carnivorous, feeding mostly on slow moving invertebrates.

California Newt

Taricha torosa



Photo: Grigory Heaton

- Can secrete the potent neurotoxin tetrodotoxin, which is hundreds of times more toxic than cyanide. It is strong enough to kill most vertebrates including humans
- Some Garter snakes have over time developed a genetic resistance to the toxin. This has created an evolutionary arms race with the newts becoming more poisonous than would typically be needed to deter predators.
- Has a larval stage

★ Not observed in Placerita Canyon

California Newt

Taricha torosa



Larval stage



Defense posture showing bright yellow underside

★ Not observed in Placerita Canyon

Arboreal Salamander

Aneides lugubris



Photo: Nicholas Hess

- Live in oak woodlands and usually are only found after rain.
- Do not have lungs and instead breathe through their skin, they require high humidity for respiration.
- Some have been found 59ft high in trees
- Semi-prehensile tail aids in climbing
- Have a powerful bite for their size
- No larval stage, young emerge from eggs as mini adults

★ A few observations in Placerita Canyon

Arboreal Salamander

Aneides lugubris

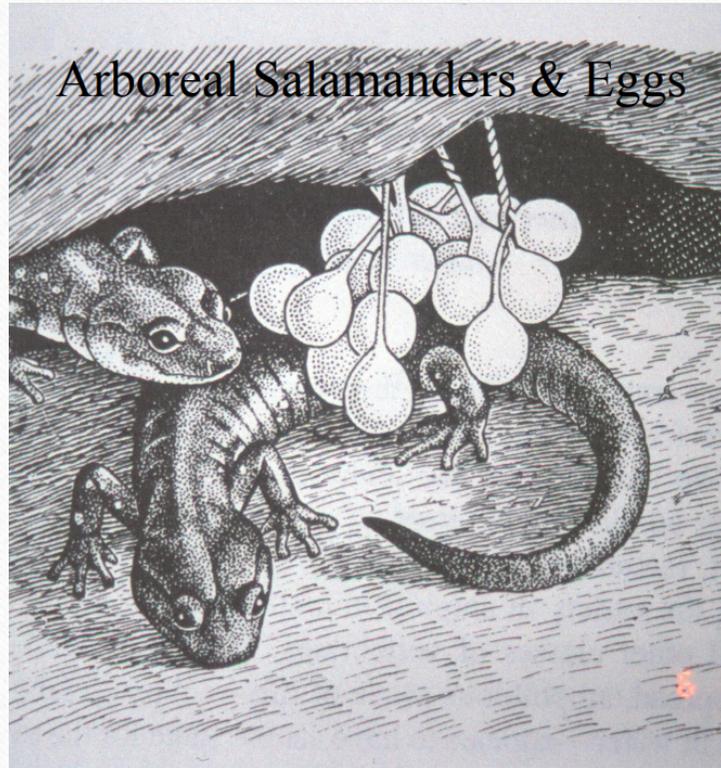


Photo: André Giraldi

★ A few observations in Placerita Canyon

Black-bellied Slender Salamander

Batrachoseps nigriventris

- Small and worm-like, live in leaf litter
- Do not have lungs and instead breathe through their skin, they require high humidity for respiration.
- No larval stage, young emerge from eggs as mini adults
- 4 Toes on front and hind feet, a characteristic of the Slender Salamander Group



Photo: Brandon Troth



Photo: Jordan Rhodes at Stoneview Nature Center

★ Possibly in Placerita Canyon

San Gabriel Mountains Slender Salamander

Batrachoseps gabrieli



Photo: Sylva Blackstone

- New species described in 1996
- Endemic to the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains.
- Do not have lungs and instead breathe through their skin, they require high humidity for respiration.
- No larval stage, young emerge from eggs as mini adults
- 4 Toes on front and hind feet, a characteristic of the Slender Salamander Group

★ Not recorded in Placerita Canyon

Monterey Ensatina

Ensatina eschscholtzii eschscholtzii



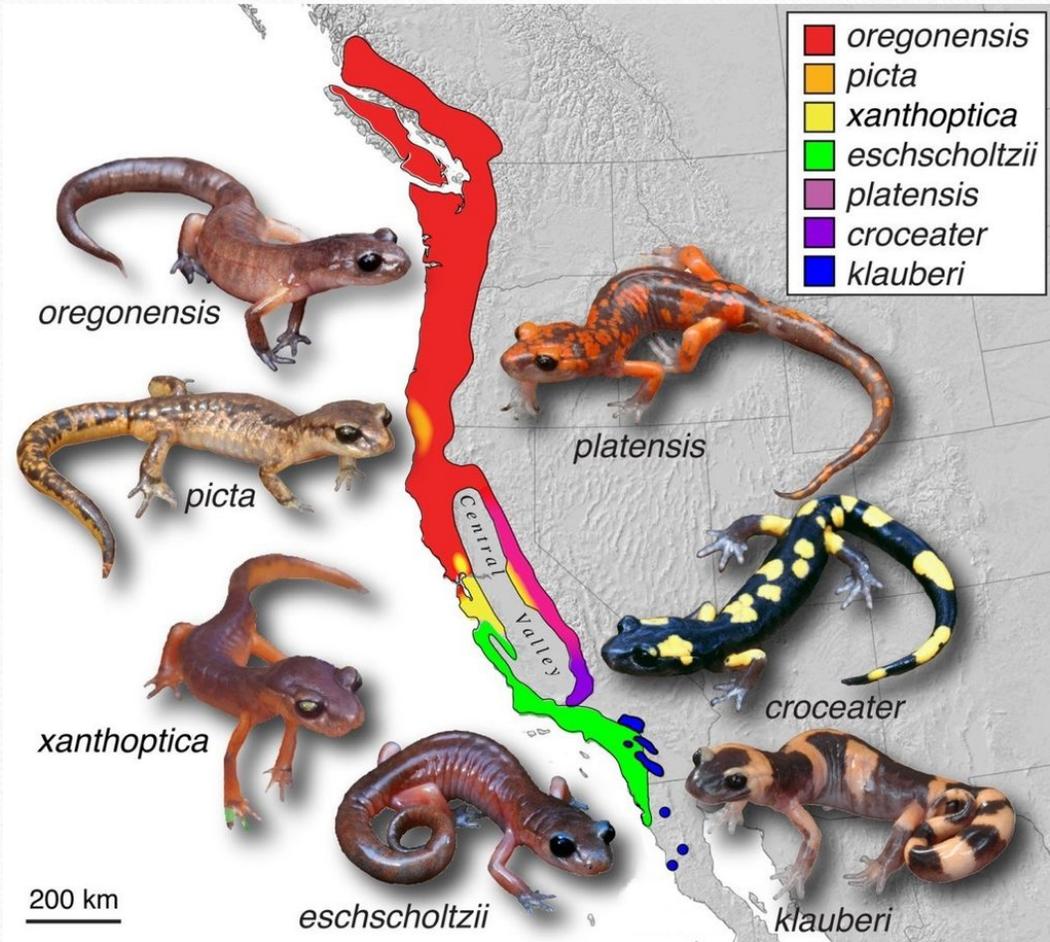
Photo: Max Roberts

- Do not have lungs and instead breathe through their skin, they require high humidity for respiration.
- No larval stage, young emerge from eggs as mini adults.
- Multiple subspecies that greatly vary in appearance.

★ Seen once in Placerita Canyon

Monterey Ensatina

Ensatina eschscholtzii eschscholtzii



★ Seen once in Placerita Canyon

Frogs and Toads

- More likely to live near water.
- Most have elongated hind legs for swimming and leaping.
- No tail, unless they're in their larval stage.
- Larvae are called tadpoles or pollywogs.
- Webbed toes.
- Externally fertilize their eggs

Baja California Tree Frog

Pseudacris hypochondriaca



Photo: William Mason



Photo: Brandon Troth

- Also called the Pacific Chorus Frog and Pacific Tree Frog
- 3/4in to 2in size
- Has rounded toe pads, a characteristic of treefrogs to enable climbing
- Can be a variety of colors and patterns from greens, browns, spotted and spotless. But always has the dark “mask” stripe across its eyes.
- Its call is the stereotypical, loud, two-part “kreck-ek” or “ribbit” most commonly used on Hollywood movie soundtracks regardless of the locality depicted in the movie

★ Common in springtime at Placerita Canyon

Baja California Tree Frog

Pseudacris hypochondriaca

Egg Cluster



Photo: Jorge H. Valdez

Tadpole



Photo: Andrea Kreuzhage

Almost a Frog



Photo: emeneme on iNaturalist

★ Common in springtime at Placerita Canyon

Baja California Tree Frog

Pseudacris hypochondriaca



Photo: William Mason

★ Common in springtime at Placerita Canyon

California Treefrog

Pseudacris cadaverina

- 3/4in to 2in size
- Has rounded toe pads, a characteristic of treefrogs to enable climbing
- Usually colored to match their habitat
- Some juveniles will have a faint mask like the Baja California Tree Frog



Southern Mountain Yellow-legged Frog

Rana muscosa



Photo: Jonathan Hakim

- Endangered
- Found in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains at higher elevation.
- Threatened by invasive fish, pesticides, chytrid fungus and recreational activities.
- 2in – 3in
- Tadpoles take 2 years to turn into adult frogs.

★ Not in Placerita Canyon

California Red-legged Frog

Rana draytonii



© Patrick Briggs

- Imperiled in California
- Thought to be The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County by Mark Twain
- State Amphibian as of 2015

★ Not in Placerita Canyon

Western Toad

Anaxyrus boreas



Photo: Olivia Miseroy

- Most common toad in Southern California
- 2in – 5in as an adult
- Rough skin with rust colored warts on dark blotches.
- Always have a yellow stripe down their back.
- Toxic parotoid glands behind their eyes, if a predator picks them up they will get a foul taste in their mouth.
- Crawl rather than hop.
- Will pee when picked up.
- Do not give humans warts.

★ Seen frequently in Placerita Canyon

Western Toad

Anaxyrus boreas



Photo: Jonathan Numer



Photo: Jonathan Numer

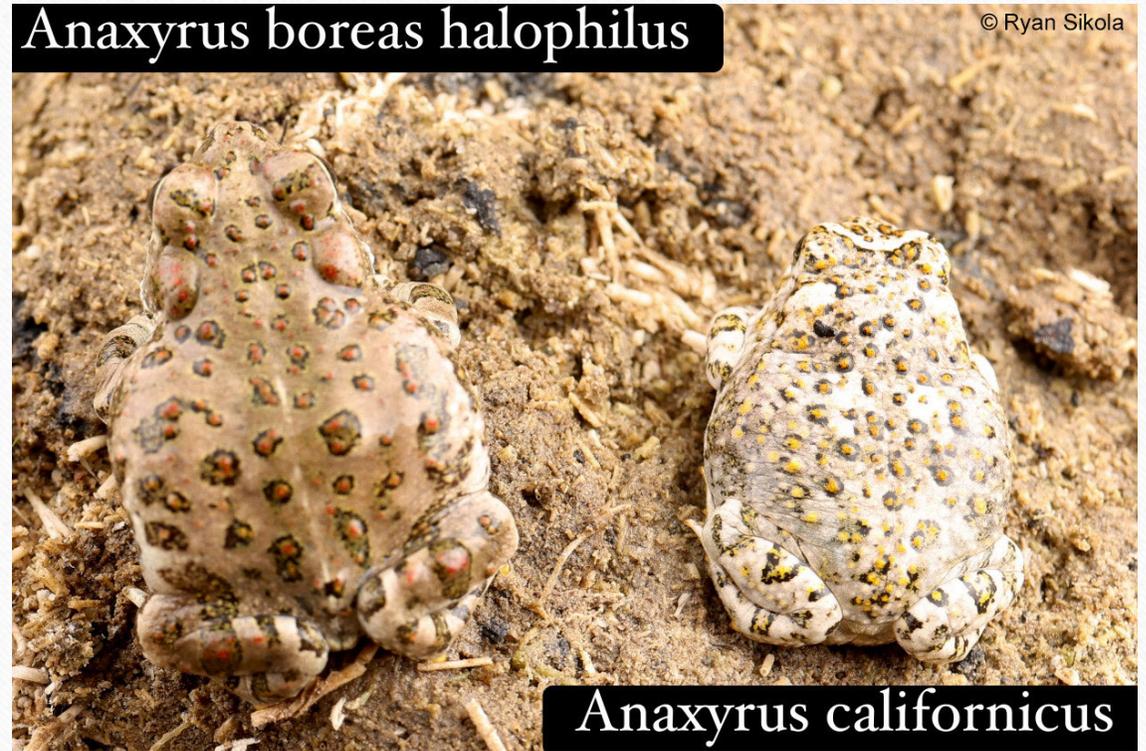


Photo: William Mason

★ Seen frequently in Placerita Canyon

Arroyo Toad

Anaxyrus Californicus



★ Not in Placerita Canyon

Western Spadefoot

Spea hammondi



- Near Threatened
- Often lay their eggs in small puddles that will soon dry up, this causes very fast metamorphosis.
- Fertilized eggs can emerge as tadpoles in at little as 15 hours and tadpoles can become toads in 12-14 days.

★ Not in Placerita Canyon

American BullFrog

Lithobates catesbeianus



Photo: JL Mackey

- Invasive species in California.
- Has a voracious appetite and will eat anything that will fit in its mouth.
- Adults can be 3in – 8in long
- Has a large tympanic membrane behind the eyes
- Responsible for causing destruction to many native species, causing some to become threatened and endangered.
- Tadpoles are huge and can take years to turn into frogs.



Photo: Nicolas Lou

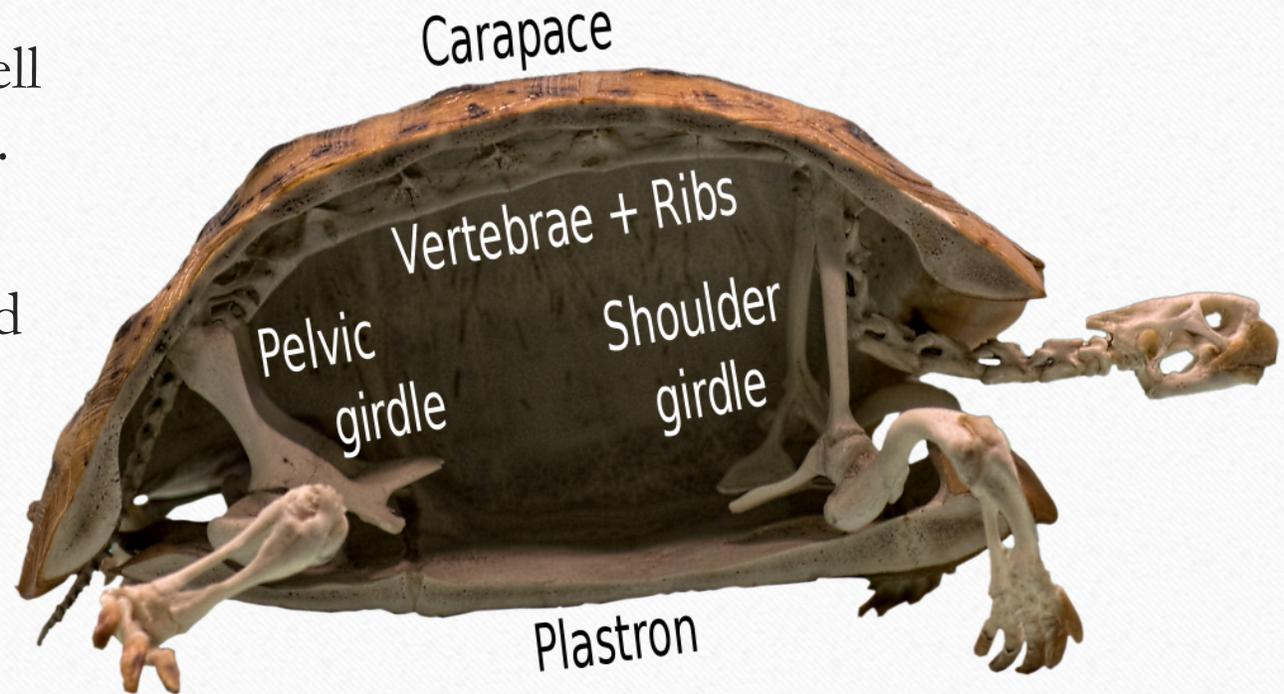
★ Hopefully not in Placerita Canyon

What makes an animal a reptile?

- Reptiles are vertebrates. They have backbones.
- Their bodies are completely covered with scales.
- They are cold-blooded.
- Reptiles produce shelled eggs or bear live young.
- All species fertilize eggs internally.
- All species of reptiles have at least one lung.

Turtles and Tortoises

- Have a special developed shell that contains their backbone.
- No teeth
- Have lungs that are protected within their shell.
- Omnivores
- Very long-lived





Turtle

- Tend to be more aquatic
- Flatter, more streamlined shell
- Limbs are flatter and sometimes webbed
- Omnivores



Tortoise

- Lives exclusively on land
- Large, domed shell
- Hind limbs are “elephant-like”
- Herbivores

Western Pond Turtle

Actinemys marmorata



Photo: Jonathan Hakim

- Listed as Vulnerable in California primarily due to loss of habitat.
- Males have a pale yellow throat as adults.
- Most of the ponds they inhabit dry up in the summer and fall. They can spend upward of 200 days outside of water.
- Omnivores but juveniles are primarily carnivorous.
- Can live 50+ years in the wild

★ Not in Placerita Canyon, except for animal ambassadors

Pond Slider

Trachemys scripta

- Invasive species in California primarily from negligent pet owners.
- Displace native turtles and eat native wildlife.
- Most common turtle seen in Los Angeles



Photo: Anna Ewing CDFW



★ Not in Placerita Canyon

Mojave Desert Tortoise

Gopherus agassizii

- Critically Endangered primarily due to habitat loss.
- Only native tortoise in Los Angeles County.
- Lives 50-80+ years.
- Once in captivity, they cannot be returned to the wild due to upper respiratory tract disease found in captive populations.



Photo: Jonathan Numer



Photo: San Dimas Canyon Nature Center

★ Not in Placerita Canyon, except for animal ambassadors

Lizards

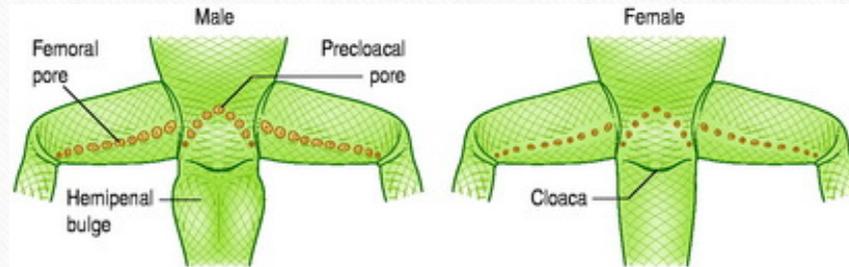
- Largest group of reptiles with 6,000 species
- Covered in scales
- Four legs with claws*
- Moveable eyelids*
- External ears
- Long tails that can sometimes detach to escape predators



Cloacas – A Multipurpose Orifice



- Used for excreting feces and urates.
- Also used for reproduction.



Western Fence Lizard

Sceloporus occidentalis



Photo: Olivia Miseroy

- Most common lizard in Los Angeles County
- Also called “Blue Bellies” because males have bright blue undersides.
- Males bob their heads and do push-ups to defend their territory.
- Hang out on rocks, fences, trees and buildings.
- A protein in their blood kills the bacterium that causes Lyme disease, ticks that previously feed on Fence Lizards can’t spread the disease to humans.



★ Common at Placerita Canyon

Western Side-blotched Lizard

Uta stansburiana elegans



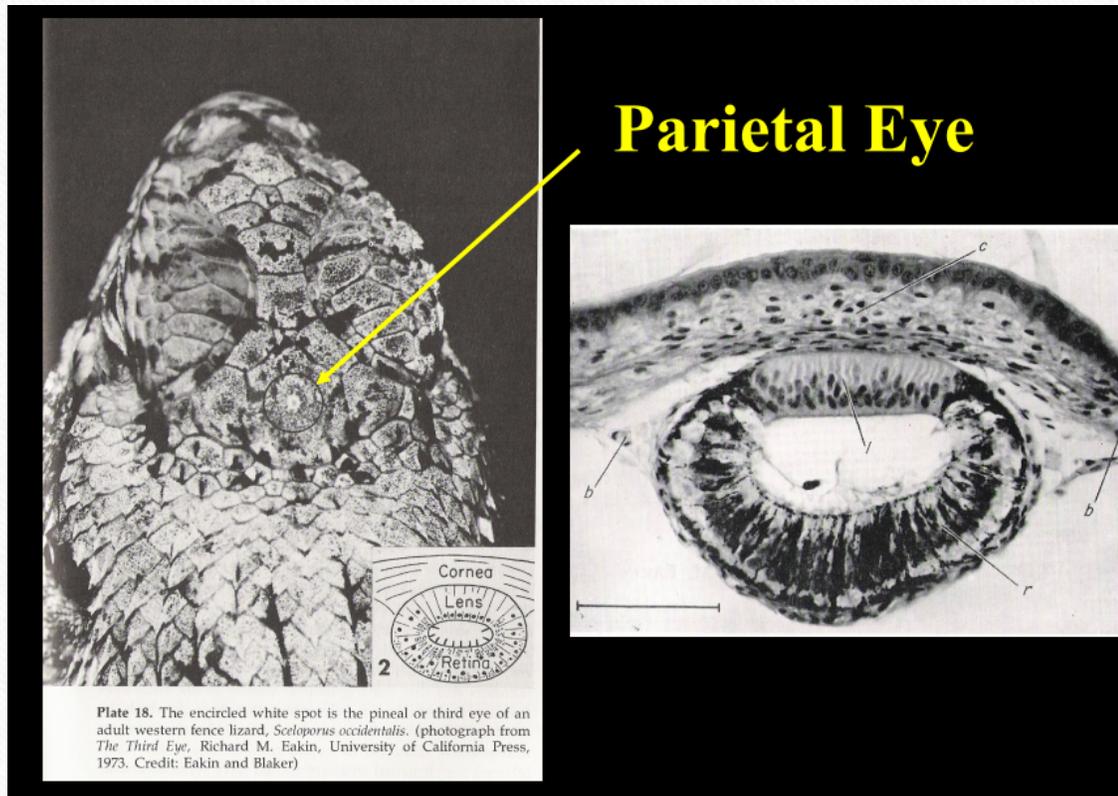
Photo: Jonathan Numer

- Second common lizard in Los Angeles County
- Named for the black blotch behind their forelegs. Females are striped and drab in color.
- Males can have blue flecks on their backs and yellow or orange throats.
- Often seen along trails.
- Throat color in males determines social hierarchy and breeding rights.



★ Common at Placerita Canyon

Parietal Eye



- The parietal eye is a photosensory organ connected to the pineal body, active in triggering hormone production (including reproduction) and thermoregulation. It is sensitive to changes in light and dark, it does not form images, having only a rudimentary retina and lens. It is visible as an opalescent gray spot on the top of some lizard's heads; also referred to as "pineal eye" or "third eye."

Western Whiptail

Aspidoscelis tigris



Photo: Olivia Miseroy

- Larger lizard, length including the tail can reach 12in.
- Seen on the ground, often in leaf litter searching for arthropod prey.
- Creep around, moving very jerky, flicking their tongue.
- Will move very fast when threatened.

★ Common at Placerita Canyon

Alligator Lizard

Elgaria multicarinata



Photo: Jonathan Numer

- Larger lizard, length including the tail can reach 12in.
- Their long bodies, tiny legs and fast movement can make them look like a snake at first.
- Commonly seen in natural and urban areas.
- Quick to break off its tail in an escape.
- Back and belly scales are reinforced by bone like alligators giving them their name.
- They also pack quite the bite.

★ Sometimes seen in Placerita Canyon

Blainville's Horned Lizard

Phrynosoma blainvillii



Photo: Olivia Miseroy

- Also called the Coast Horned Lizard
- Flat, covered in spikes, blends in with their habitat very well
- Will run short distances, easiest way to spot them.
- Will puff up in defense.
- Sometimes know to shoot blood out of their eyes to deter predators.
- Only eat harvester ants, invasive ants displacing their prey is responsible for their dwindling numbers.

★ Sometimes seen in Placerita Canyon



Western Skink

Plestiodon skiltonianus



Photo: William Mason

- Small lizard, 7 inches long including tail.
- Juveniles have bright blue tails, used to distract predators if they have to drop it and escape.
- Live under logs and amongst leaf litter.
- Females will guard their eggs and young.

★ Sometimes seen in Placerita Canyon

San Diegan Legless Lizard

Anniella stebbinsi



Photo: William Mason

- A lizard, not a snake because it has eyelids
- Can detach its tail, a characteristic of lizards and not snakes.
- Live underground, in leaf litter and sand areas. Most active at night.



★ Sometimes seen in Placerita Canyon

Great Basin Collared Lizard

Crotaphytus bicinctores



Photo: Olivia Miseroy

- Found in desert creek beds in north Los Angeles County.
- Active during day in high heat.
- Carnivorous, sometimes eating other lizards.
- Can run on its hind legs.

★ Not in Placerita Canyon

Long-nosed Leopard Lizard

Gambelia wislizenii

- Found in the deserts in north Los Angeles County.
- Active during the day in high heat.
- Carnivorous, sometimes eating other lizards.
- Related to the collared lizards.



Photo: Olivia Miseroy



Photo: Jonathan Numer

★ Not in Placerita Canyon

Zebra Tailed Lizard

Callisaurus draconoides

- Found in the deserts in north Los Angeles County.
- Active during the day in high heat.
- Incredibly fast, probably the fastest lizard in LA County.
- Will raise its tail to startle and distract predators.



Photo: Olivia Miseroy



★ Not in Placerita Canyon

Common Chuckwalla

Sauromalus ater



Photo: Olivia Miseroy

- The second largest lizard in California, the Gila Monster is larger.
- Active during the day in high heat, their dark coloration helps them absorb heat and blend in with the rocks they bask on.
- Eats only vegetation, especially spring wildflowers.
- Will hide in rock crevices and puff up with air to prevent being pulled out from the crevice.

★ Not in Placerita Canyon

Western Banded Gecko

Coleonyx variegatus



Photo: Olivia Miseroy

- Very small and elusive gecko.
- Full grown adults resemble baby Leopard Geckos.
- Will squeak and lift up their tail when threatened.

★ Not recorded in Placerita Canyon

Desert Night Lizard

Xantusia vigilis



Photo: Jonathan Numer

- The smallest adult native lizard in Los Angeles County.
- Found in the deserts and foothills of the Antelope Valley, especially under fallen Joshua Trees.
- Does not have eyelids.
- Research has found that they live in social family groups sometimes.

★ Not in Placerita Canyon

Invasive Lizards

Italian Wall Lizard



Photos: Wikimedia Commons

Mediterranean House Gecko



★ Not in Placerita Canyon

Snakes

- Over 3000 different species
- Covered in scales
- No legs
- No eyelids
- No external ears
- Most lay eggs but some will retain the eggs in their bodies and give live birth.
- Excellent sense of smell, they use their forked tongue and Jacobson's organ to process scent particles in the air.

Gopher Snake

Pituophis catenifer



Photo: Sarah Brewer



Photo: Jonathan Numer

- 15in – 6ft in length.
- Common snake across LA County in many different habitats.
- Eats primarily mammals but will eat reptiles, eggs and young birds.
- When threatened it will shake its tail, hiss and flatten its head.
- Most commonly mistaken as a rattlesnake.

★ Common at Placerita Canyon

California King Snake

Lampropeltis californiae



Photo: Olivia Miseroy

- 12in – 4ft in length
- Relatively common throughout Southern California.
- Will shake their tail when nervous.
- Called the “King” snake because they will eat anything that fits in their mouth including venomous snakes.
- The strongest constrictor proportionate to their body size.

★ Fairly common in Placerita Canyon

© Chris DeGroof



California Mountain King Snake

Lampropeltis multifasciata



Photo: William Mason

- 7in – 3.5ft in length.
- Found at higher elevations near streams and canyons.
- Similar eating habits to the California Kingsnake.
- Color similar to venomous coral snakes which are not found in California.
- Rhyme “Red touches yellow kills a fellow, red touches black you’re ok Jack!”

★ Sometimes seen in Placerita Canyon

Coastal Rosy Boa

Lichanura orcutti



Photo: William Mason

- Only native Boa found in Los Angeles County.
- Very rare to find.
- Very mellow and slow moving.

★ Possibly in Placerita Canyon

Striped Racer

Masticophis lateralis



Photo: Mickey Long



- 13in – 48in in length, very thin.
- Incredibly fast, usually all you will see is a black tail darting into a bush.
- Primary prey is lizards, which is why they need to be so quick.
- Not a constrictor, they grab their prey and just fight it down.
- Sometimes they will hold their head up a few inches off the ground to get a higher vantage point.

★ Common in Placerita Canyon

Red Coachwhip

Masticophis flagellum



Photo: Andre J. Loures

- 13in – 5ft in length
- Juveniles are brown/orange and become redder/pinker as they grow.
- Not a constrictor, they grab their prey and just fight it down.
- Sometimes they will hold their head up a few inches off the ground to get a higher vantage point.

★ Common in Placerita Canyon



Two-striped Garter Snake

Thamnophis hammondi



Photo: Olivia Miseroy

- 8in – 3 ½ ft in length.
- Aquatic and found close to water.
- Feeds on fish, fish eggs, tadpoles, small amphibians, leeches and earthworms.
- Mildly venomous, has rear fangs that might cause swelling.
- California Species of Special Concern

★ Possibly in Placerita Canyon

Ring-necked Snake

Diadophis punctatus



Photo: Mickey Long

- 11in – 16in in length.
- Secretive and found hiding under rocks, logs, boards and leaf litter.
- Feeds primarily on small amphibians and some invertebrates.
- Mildly venomous, has rear fangs and too small to bite humans.
- In defense it will show its red underbelly and corkscrew its tail.

★ Sometimes seen in Placerita Canyon

Desert Nightsnake

Hypsiglena chorophaea



Photo: Olivia Miseroy

- 8in – 20in in length.
- Nocturnal and elusive. Sometimes found under rocks and logs.
- Feeds primarily on small reptiles and amphibians.
- Mildly venomous, has rear fangs and too small to bite humans.

★ Not recorded in Placerita Canyon

California Lyresnake

Trimorphodon lyrophanes



Photo: William Mason

- 6in – 3 ft in length.
- Nocturnal and found near rocky areas where it can blend in.
- Feeds primarily on small lizards but also mammals and eggs
- Mildly venomous, has rear fangs and too small to bite humans.
- In defense it will shake its tail and strike.

★ Possibly in Placerita Canyon

Western Threadsnake

Rena humilis



Photos: Wikimedia Commons

- 5in – 12in in length.
- Nocturnal and lives in soil.
- Feeds primarily on ants and termites. Its small size allows it to crawl through their tunnels.
- Not a worm.

★ Possibly in Placerita Canyon

Southern Pacific Rattlesnake

Crotalus oreganus helleri



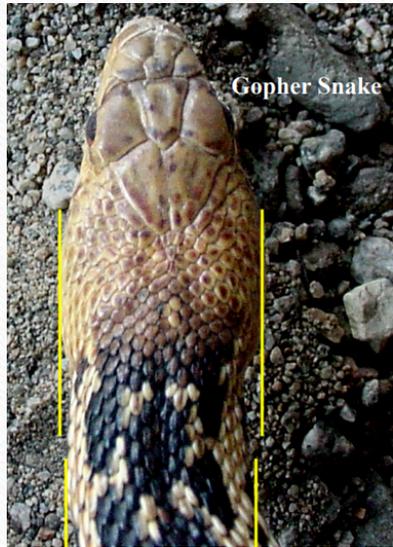
Photo: Olivia Miseroy

- 11in – 4ft in length.
- Rattlesnakes are the only venomous snakes in California that are potentially dangerous to humans.
- Thick, heavy bodied snake with triangular shaped head and rattle on tail.
- The rattle is made up of segments of dead skin, a new segment is added every time the snake molts.
- They are “pit vipers” and have pits on the front of their faces to detect heat.

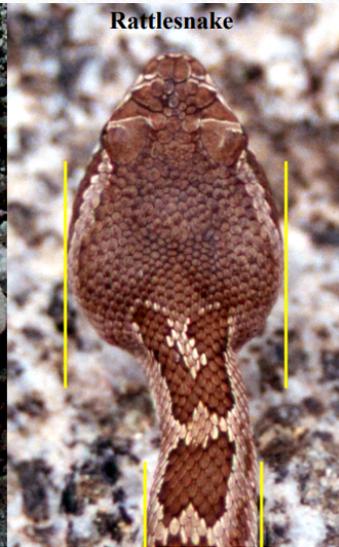
★ Commonly seen in Placerita Canyon







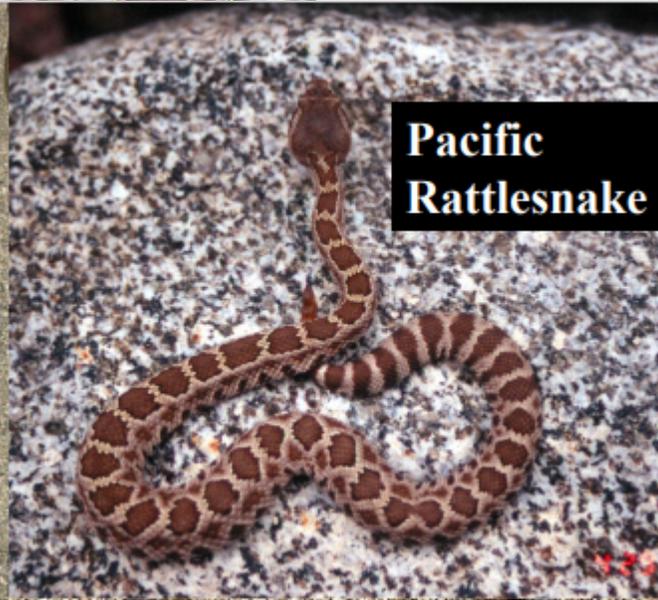
Gopher Snake



Rattlesnake



Gopher Snake



Pacific
Rattlesnake

Mojave Rattlesnake

Crotalus scutulatus



Photo: Olivia Miseroy

- 10in – 3 ½ ft in length.
- Only in the northern part of LA County in the Antelope Valley
- Sometimes called the “Mojave Green”
- Generally smaller than the Southern Pacific Rattlesnake.
- Has a hemotoxin (affecting the blood) and neurotoxin (affecting the nervous system)

★ Not in Placerita Canyon

Sidewinder Rattlesnake

Crotalus cerastes



© Gary Nafis

- 17in – 33in in length.
- Only in the northern part of LA County in the Antelope Valley.
- Distinct horn-shaped scales over eyes.
- Distinct side-ways locomotion
- Usually found in sandy washes.

★ Not in Placerita Canyon

Sidewinder Rattlesnake

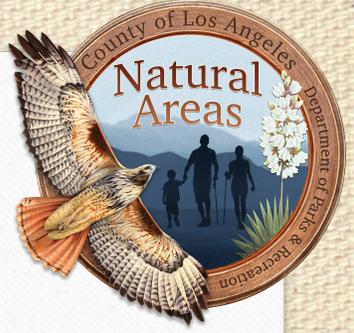
Crotalus cerastes





MYTHBUSTERS

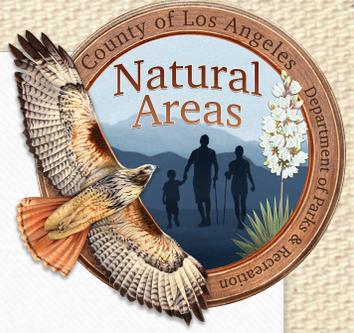
“ RATTLESNAKE EDITION! ”



Rattlesnakes will chase you

FALSE

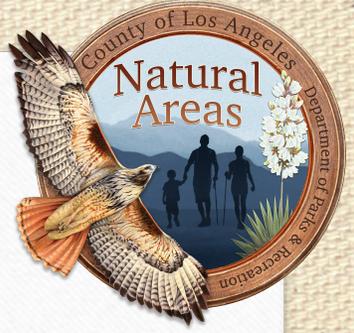
- Humans are not prey to be hunted.
- They will strike and possibly bluff charge which might give the appearance of chasing.
- To escape a dangerous situation, they might rush to the nearest dark hiding spot, which could be your shadow and seem like they are coming at you.



Rattlesnakes will always rattle

FALSE

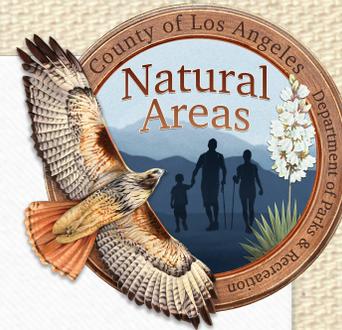
- Many snakes will prefer to not draw attention to themselves and will hold still and hide/camouflage
- Each snake has its own personality, some rattle at everything, others never will.
- Rattles are made of delicate keratin and can break off or an injury could cause them to never grow back.



Rattlesnakes can bite when they're dead

TRUE

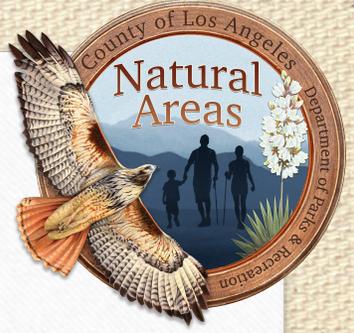
- They can retain reflexes after death, including striking and injecting venom.
- Just a head can bite and inject venom.
- Handle a dead snake with the same equipment as if it were alive.



Baby Rattlesnakes are more venomous

FALSE

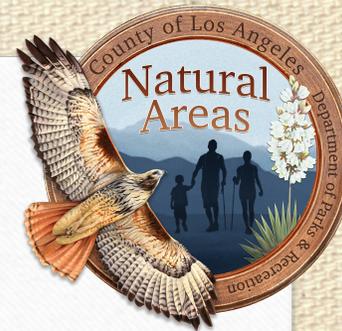
- Baby snakes have smaller venom glands and yield a lot less venom in a bite than an adult.
- They can control their venom just like adults.
- Venom toxicity is exactly the same at every age.



Number of rattle buttons can tell a snake's age.

FALSE

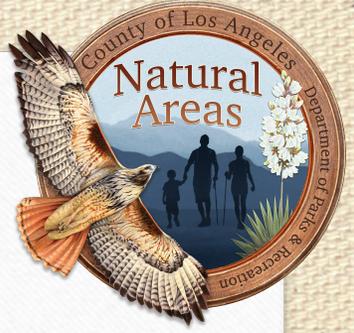
- A new button is added to the rattle every time the snake sheds its skin which can happen multiple times a year based on growth.
- They also can lose part of their rattle since its made of delicate keratin.



Rattlesnakes can give “dry bites”

TRUE

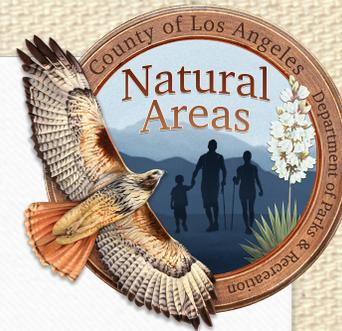
- Snakes can control their venom at any age.
- Venom takes a lot of energy to make, they want to save it for their prey.
- Even if you get what you think is a dry bite, still seek medical attention immediately.



A rattlesnake will die if it bites itself

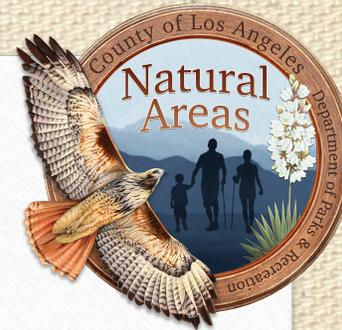
TRUE

- Venom entering their bloodstream will affect them the same way it affects their prey.
- Their venom is part of their digestive system to consume prey by killing it. Ingesting their own venom will not harm the snake.
- A snake biting itself is very rare.



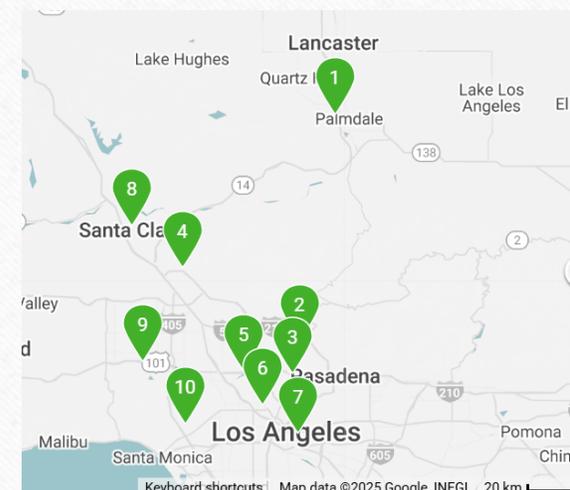
Tips to Avoid a Rattlesnake Bite

- Be aware of your surroundings when outdoors.
- Stay on trail.
- Watch where you put your hands and feet.
- When hiking in snake country let someone know where you are going and what time you plan to return home.
- Carry a cell phone.
- If you see a rattlesnake, give it space and leave it alone.
- Keep dogs on leash.



In the Event of a Rattlesnake Bite

- Stay calm and act fast
- Remove items that may constrict swelling such as jewelry, watches, shoes..
- Call 911 immediately
- The **ONLY** way to treat a rattlesnake bite is medical intervention and antivenom
- **DON'T** Apply a tourniquet
- Apply ice
- Cut the wound with a knife to bleed it out
- Do not use your mouth to suck out venom



Why are Reptiles Important?

- Some are indicator species of environmental problems
- Medical research
- They prey on pests and keep
- They are a food source for many animals, including humans.
- Cultural impact

Resources

California Herps

<https://californiaherps.com/>



Want to know what kind of reptile or amphibian you found? Post it to iNaturalist!

@fowlivia