



People tend to categorize turtles, snakes, lizards, and crocodiles with animals like newts, salamanders, frogs, and toads. They are all low to the ground and usually live in or near water, so it can be hard to remember which animals are reptiles and which are amphibians!

Even though reptiles and amphibians seem so similar, below we share tips on how to tell the difference between reptiles and amphibians. Keep score of how many points each class earns on the next page and discover which team turtles play for.

On the Outside:

If you know what to look for, telling a reptile apart from an amphibian is easy!



Reptiles have scaly, dry skin, while amphibians have smooth, moist skin. Look at the picture of the turtle below. Its skin is scaly and rough. Mark one point for the reptile side!



Reptiles lay eggs on land, and the eggs have an outer protective casing. Most amphibians lay their soft eggs in water. Where has the turtle in the second image laid her eggs? Two points for reptiles!



Look at the turtle hatchlings on the right. They look just like adult turtles. Amphibian babies hatch and don't look anything like the adults they will become. The reptile team has three points!



On the Inside:

Reptiles and amphibians are different on the inside, too. Take a look.



Reptiles have lungs and can only breathe oxygen from the air. Amphibians, on the other hand, get their oxygen from soaking up water through their skin, and some even have gills to breathe underwater. Does the turtle below have lungs or gills? Another point for team reptile!



Amphibians have glands under their skin that secrete poison. Reptiles, however, do not have these same glands. Do you see any poison glands under the turtle's skin? And the last point goes to . . . the reptile team!



Scoreboard

REPTILES

AMPHIBIANS

There you have it. Is a turtle a reptile? Turtles definitely play for the reptile team.