



CURIOUS
* REPTILES
and
* AMPHIBIANS





NYREE BEVAN



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY





Of all God's creatures, reptiles and amphibians are some of the most fascinating. While it's easy to simply refer to them as "lizards" or "snakes," there is so much more to reptiles than a couple types of animals. And though they are often confused with reptiles, amphibians have their own differentiating characteristics. From big to small and aggressive to meek, there are many unique and wonderful reptiles and amphibians. Let's take a look at some of them!

BLUE CRESTED LIZARD



The blue crested lizard is known for its beautiful turquoise-blue head and throat, but this color is only present during breeding season. At other times it is mostly reddish-brown or even grayish-brown.

Blue crested lizards are considered fully **arboreal**, which means they spend all their time in trees.



They are also **diurnal**—their activity time is during the day, and their sleeping time is at night.



Blue crested lizards are found in Southeast Asia.



These lizards have long white stripes just under the eyes, which extend from their snouts to their shoulders.

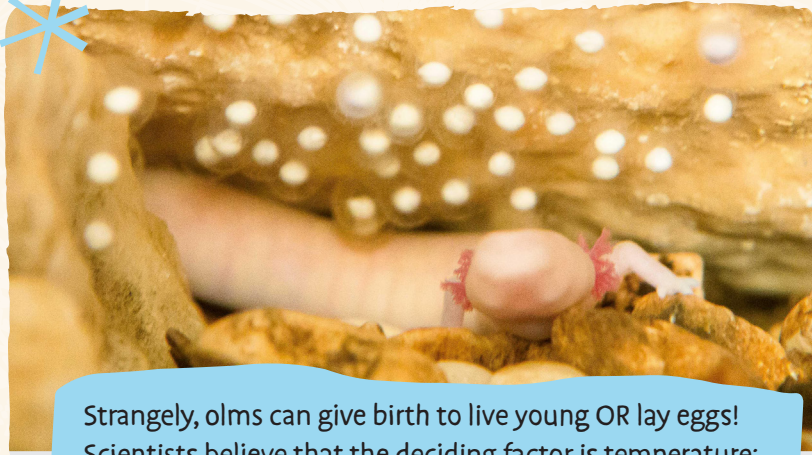


OLM SALAMANDER

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Olms are mostly blind because they live in caves or in underground streams. Their sight stops developing as they grow, and layers of skin even grow over their eyes.





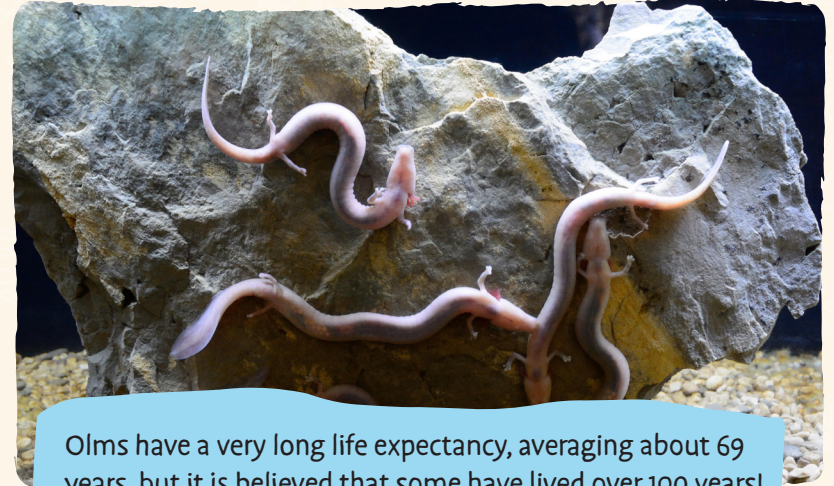
Strangely, olms can give birth to live young OR lay eggs! Scientists believe that the deciding factor is temperature; colder temperatures promote live births.



Using “super” senses such as highly developed smell and hearing, olms hunt and capture food. They may even be able to detect electric fields.



Because they are almost always without light, their skin loses most of its pigment, making them light pink, almost translucent, in color.



Olms have a very long life expectancy, averaging about 69 years, but it is believed that some have lived over 100 years!



PANTHER CHAMELEON

○ ○ ○
Male panther chameleons sport brightly colored skins, while most females are light green, tan, or gray.

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Panther chameleons have very large eyes that are covered with scaly skin with only a small opening to see. As with other chameleons, these eyes can move independently from one another.



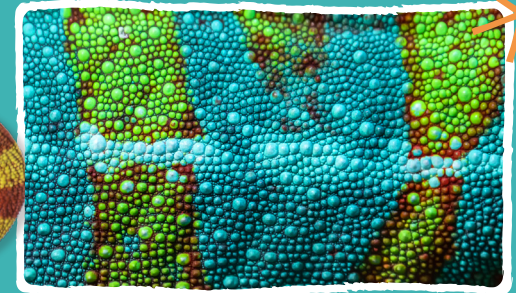
There are several different species of panther chameleons, with many different colors depending on where they are from. They are some of the most colorful chameleons, displaying the many colors of the rainbow!



Female panther chameleons dig burrows to lay their eggs, up to 46 at a time, and then bury them with dirt, some even using leaves and sticks on top to protect the eggs. The hatchlings are independent when born.



With tongues that can extend longer than their body length with sticky “suction cups” on the ends, panther chameleons can quickly grab prey such as insects or even small birds. They can extend and retract their tongues at fast speeds, much like a whip.



A panther chameleon’s skin has two layers of crystal-containing cells that can be stretched or relaxed, allowing the animal to quickly change its skin color by changing the reflected light.

BLUE VIPER SNAKE

Blue vipers are a species of pit vipers.

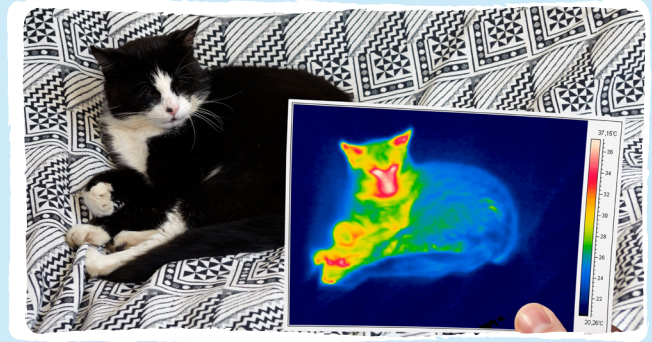
Viper snakes are often shorter and more sturdy than other snakes such as cobras. Vipers use this strength to ambush and attack their prey.





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Pit vipers detect electromagnetic radiation through pit organs located on their upper lips. This helps them find and identify prey.



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Instead of seeing light as humans do, pit vipers sense **infrared** light, most likely seeing body heat that helps them locate and judge the size of prey and predators, even in the dark.



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Blue vipers are very rare, most often found in Indonesia. Green is a much more common color for pit vipers.



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Living most of their lives in trees, blue pit vipers rarely come down except during mating season.

WEB-FOOTED GECKO

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Living mostly in the Namib Desert, this sandy-colored, nearly translucent, web-footed gecko blends in perfectly.

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To help keep their lidless eyes moist, web-footed geckos collect dew drops on their eyes and continually lick them with their long, light pink tongues to keep them clean.



Webbed feet help these geckos travel on top of sand. They also help them dig into the sand to bury themselves, which is where they spend most of the day to keep cool and sleep.



The web between their toes is fleshy but contains small cartilages that help coordinate the many muscles of their feet. This helps them to “scoop” the sand in order to bury themselves quickly.



With their large eyes and vertical pupils, these geckos can see very well at night when they are out hunting.



These adorable geckos only reach about 10–13 centimeters (4–5 inches) long.

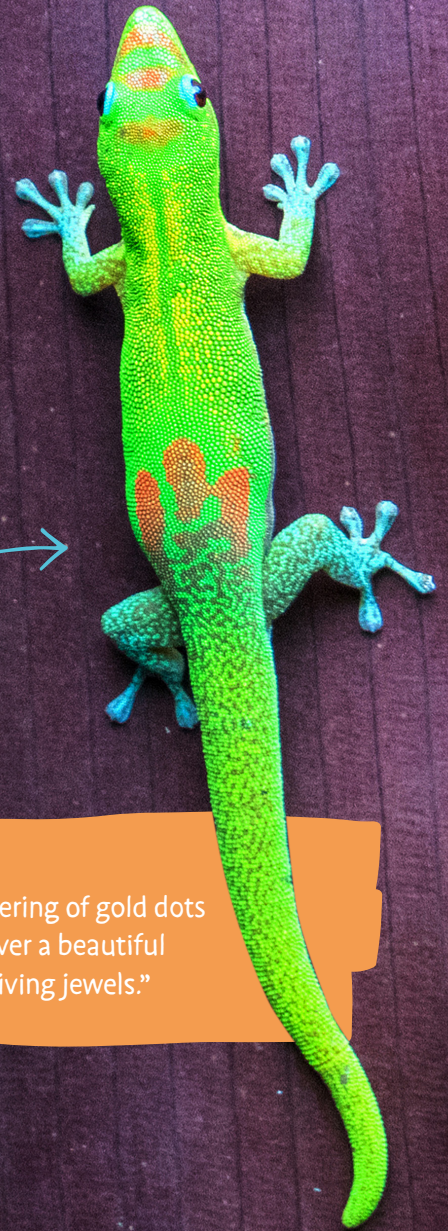


GOLD DUST DAY GECKO



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Day geckos are native to Madagascar and small islands off the coast of Africa.



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Gold dust day geckos have a spattering of gold dots along their necks and shoulders over a beautiful green skin and have been called “living jewels.”



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These geckos not only eat insects like most geckos but also lick nectar from flowers and juices from overripe fruit.



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The stunning sky-blue coloring above their big eyes looks almost like eye shadow.



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Unlike most geckos, the day gecko is active during the day and sleeps at night.



CURIOUS REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS



From frogs with big eyes to salamanders that don't use their eyes at all, from turtles that lure prey right into their mouths to lizards that snatch up insects with suction-cup tongues, there is so much variety to be found among reptiles and amphibians. Packed with vibrant full-color photos that are both entertaining and informational, *Curious Reptiles and Amphibians* explores fun facts about many of God's most fascinating creatures.

■ ORIGINAL PUBLICATION



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