Run, Crawl, Swim and Climb

Reptiles and Amphibians

Objective:

1. Students will identify reptiles and amphibians.

2. Students will be able to explain one fact about a reptile and one fact about an amphibian and give an example of each.

Grades: Pre K -K

Key Vocabulary:

- **Reptile**
- **Amphibian**
- **Habitat**

Related Literature:

The Icky Sticky Frog
Salina Yoon

Snakes
James MacLaine

A Color of His Own
Leo Lionni

Performance Objectives:

Strand 4: Concept 1 – PO 2-3
Concept 2 – PO 1

NGSS: K – LS 1. C
SS: K. W. 1-2

Background Information:

Reptiles and amphibians are among the most interesting creatures on Earth. They can live in many different locations, such as humid rainforests or hot, dry deserts. What do you think of when you hear the word, reptile? Many people think of a snake or a lizard because they are both reptiles. The green tree python is a perfect example of a reptile.

What makes this snake a reptile? For one thing, a snake is covered with scales. Reptiles have dry, scaly skin. The scales help to protect the snake's body from getting injured.

This python is wrapped around a tree branch where it likes to rest and watch what is going on.

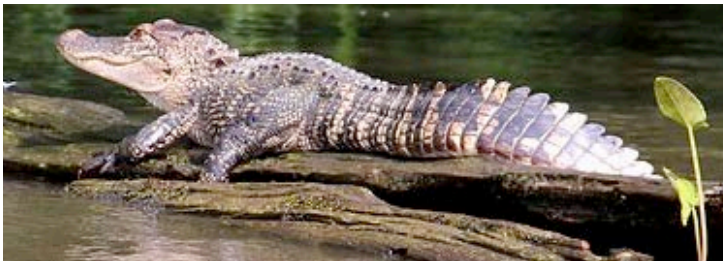
Another example of a reptile is a gecko. Geckos are lizards that can live in the rainforest. Geckos may be very colorful and blend in with the tree or leaves where they live. Some geckos, like the crested gecko, can be tan or brow in color.

These reptiles can hide themselves in the forest leaves or climb high in the trees to avoid predators. Reptiles are cold-blooded, which means their body relies on the surrounding environment to keep them warm or cool. For example, lizards may climb on top of a log or rock to warm their body in the sunlight.

This lizard, an Iguana, is keeping warm on top of the branches. If he gets too warm, he can hide in the shade or take a dip in water.

Reptiles lay eggs that hatch on land. Baby reptiles are able to get their own food and water from the time they hatch. The crocodile is a reptile that enjoys both land and water.

Reptiles also have backbones, which helps their body move. You have a backbone. Are you a reptile? No, because people are warm blooded. This means that your body keeps itself warm even if the air around you is cold. When air gets cold, a reptile's body gets cold too.



Amphibians are different from reptiles, but both are cold-blooded. Amphibians can live in both water and on land. Some examples of amphibians are frogs, toads and salamanders. They often have wet, sticky skin instead of dry and scaly skin.

Salamander

Horned Frog

Amphibians lay eggs in the water where they hatch into tadpoles. The tiny tadpoles live in water for awhile as their body begins to change. Some people mistake them for fish, but they are not fish. As they change, tadpoles grow legs and arms, and also lungs to breathe. Soon they are ready to live on land, but they continue to enjoy their time in the water. A fully grown frog started as a tiny little tadpole.

Sources: Aquarium of the Pacific; National Geographic; Sciencing.org; Smithsonian National Zoo; Animaldiversity.org; Mannago bay. Pictures are in public domain.

Procedures and Pre-Activities:

1. State the learning objective and clarify for students.

2. Read related literature and discuss the general characteristics of reptiles and amphibians. Show pictures to students and ask them to point out the traits of each.

3. Briefly discuss habitats for reptiles and amphibians with a focus on the rainforest.

4. Ask student to share their stories about seeing any reptiles or amphibians.

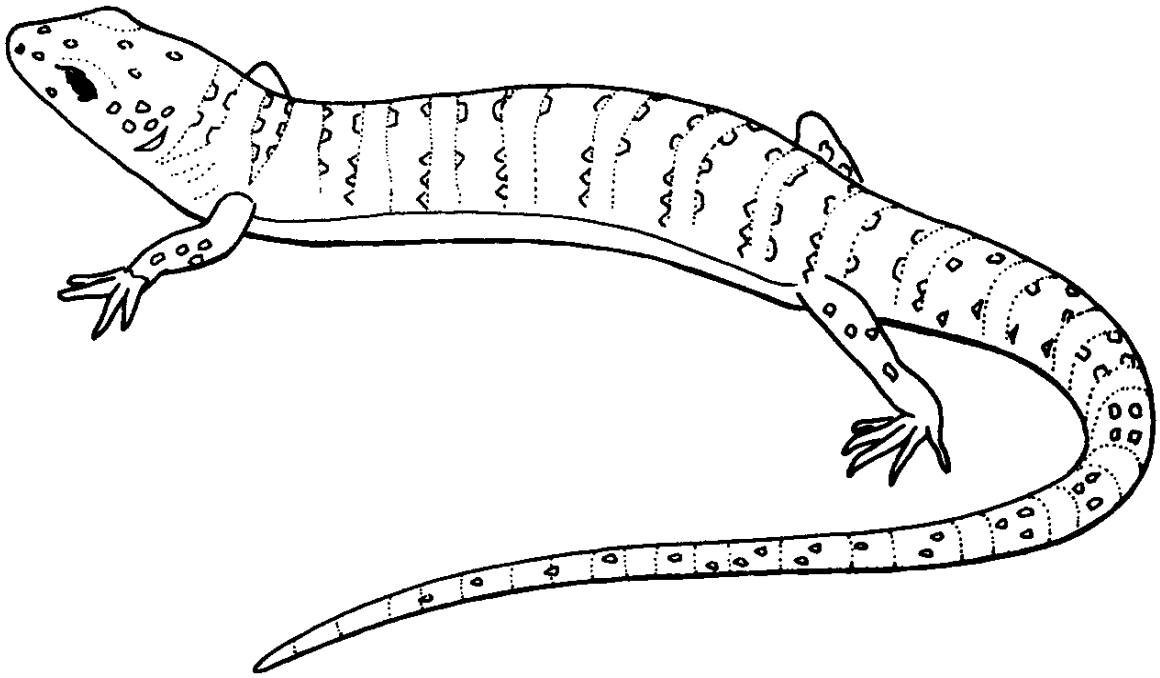
Activity: "Color the Reptile" will allow students to be creative with color while discussing the traits of reptiles.

Activity: "Color the Frog" will allow students to discuss the difference between reptiles and amphibians while coloring the picture.

Activity: "Circle the Reptiles" gives students the opportunity to demonstrate basic knowledge of a reptile and an amphibian as they circle the correct picture. This activity may be expanded by discussing each choice.

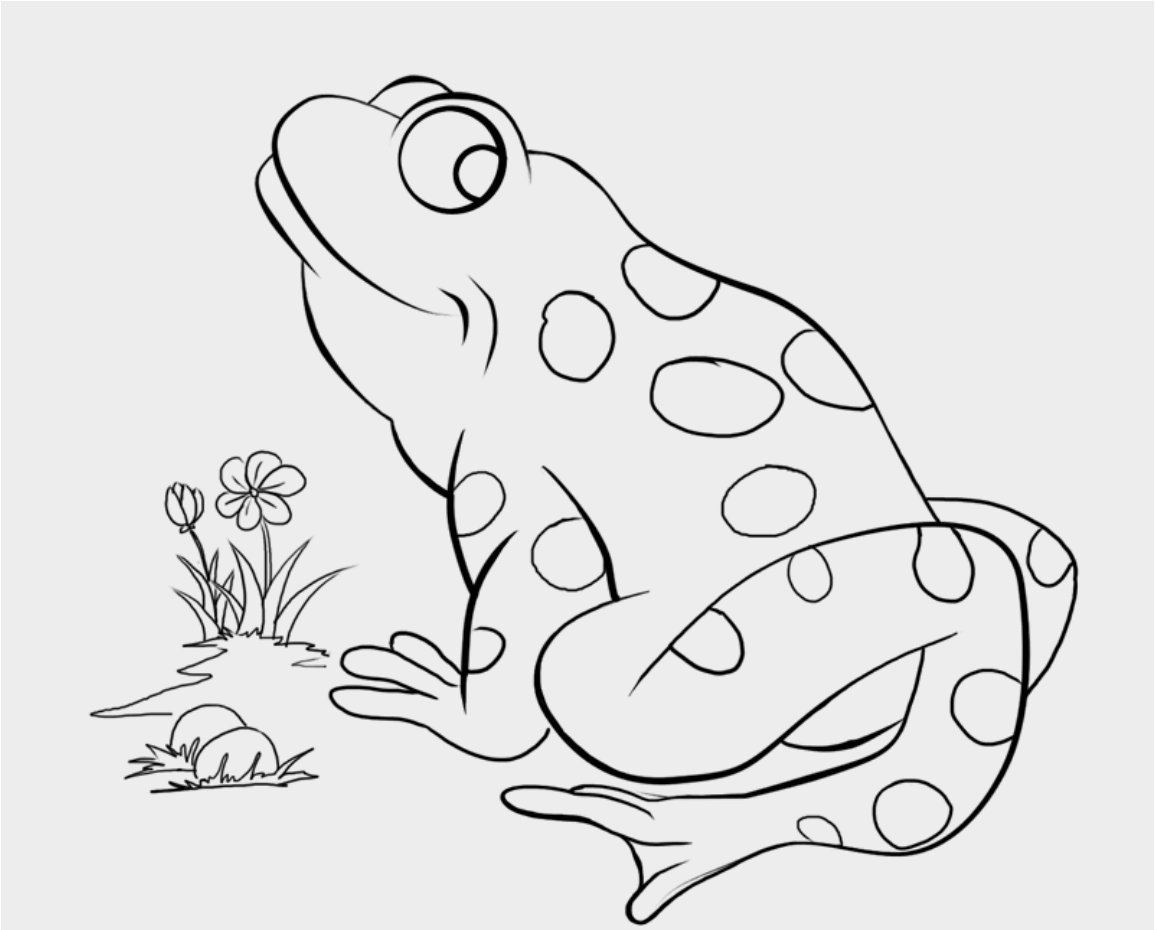
Reflection and Assessment: Students are assessed on various levels depending on the activity. Participation in the activity is appropriate for this grade level.

Color the Reptile



A lizard is a reptile

Color the Frog



A frog is an amphibian

Circle the Reptiles