

“SCALEY SCALES”

Reptile Adaptations

Make your own individual reptile with this simple and easy to follow activity. Scaley scales enable your students to explore the world of reptiles, including which animals are considered to be reptiles, the characteristics that reptiles have in common, and their individual adaptations, habitat, feeding and reproduction.

Materials:

School Glue

Wax paper

Food coloring or water coloring

Paper

Colors or Colored Pencils

Instructions:

1. Use the museum website and other available resources to study different kinds of reptiles, their individual characteristics and adaptations focusing on habits, food, reproduction and territory.
2. After the lesson, allow the students to do research on their own, have them look up different reptiles in books and magazine as a guide to decide what kind of reptile they want to make.
3. Students draw their own reptile, try to make it look like one that they saw in their research or they can make it completely original. There are no rules, create a new species if they wish.
4. Form “scales” by applying several layers of school glue to a piece of wax paper, allowing them to completely dry between applications. Attach these scales to the drawing of the reptile or add food coloring or watercolors to the glue to form colored scales. You may end up with all colors of reptiles.
5. Once the reptiles are made have the students discuss what their individual reptiles need:
 - Food: How does their coloring or body shape affect they way they hunt to get their food?
 - Habitat: Where will your animal live and how his scale coloring and body structure aide him in survival.
6. If your students created a reptile that does not resemble any known, have them “create a name” for it and introduce a completely new species.

Assessment:

This activity is meant to be a supplemental activity to go along with the information on the museum website. This activity should help reinforce the vocabulary and main concepts of your lesson. If you wish to take a grade for this activity you may use the following rubric or create one of your own.

	0 – 11 points	12 – 22 points	23-33/34 points
Vocabulary	Minimal knowledge of key vocabulary words and definitions less than 70%	Average knowledge of key vocabulary words and definitions less 71-85%	Excellent knowledge of vocabulary words and definitions greater than 86%
Student Participation in the research exercise to find a reptile	Student puts forth minimal effort in learning information about reptile; learn name and color	Student puts forth average effort in learning information about reptile; name, color, feeding and habitat.	Student puts forth maximum effort in learning information about reptile; name, color, feeding and habitat and be able to describe adaptations and how they effect the reptile.
Student creativity with drawing and scales.	Student put forth minimal effort in the art project of drawing reptile and adding scales.	Student put forth average effort in the art project of drawing reptile and adding scales.	Student put forth maximum effort in the art project of drawing reptile and adding scales.
		Total Grade	100