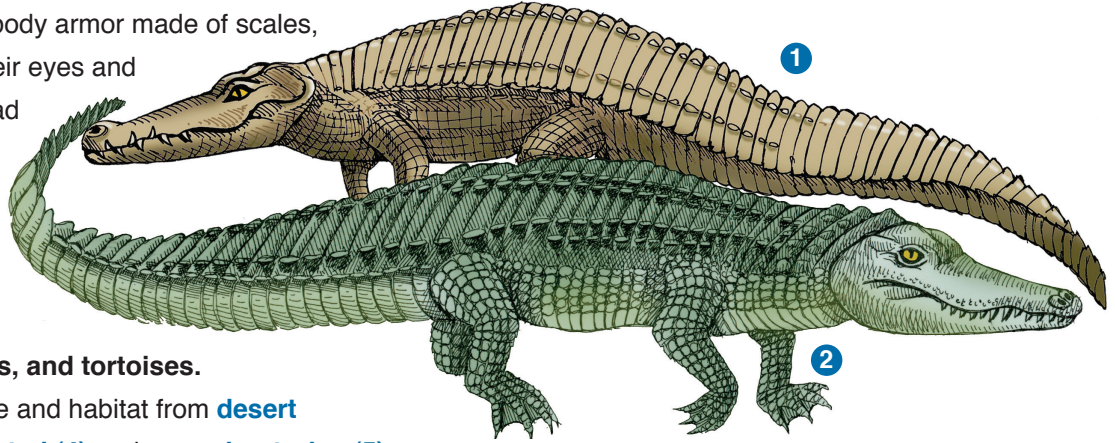


Class Reptilia - Reptiles

Reptiles – the **Class Reptilia** including turtles, snakes, alligators, and lizards and all share the following physical traits:

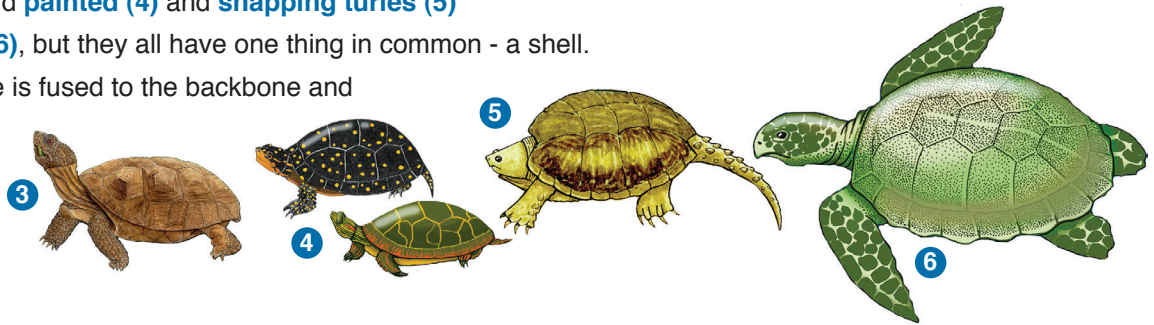
1) They lay **eggs on land** with a **leathery shell** to protect them from drying out. 2) They are covered with tough, dry skin and **protective scales or plates**. 4) They are **cold-blooded**. 5) Their teeth are about the same shape and size throughout the mouth. The Class Reptilia is broken down into 4 groups called **Orders**:

1) Crocodiles (1), caimans, alligators (2), gharials. All Crocodilia have long, flattened heads and bodies with legs coming off the sides, tough body armor made of scales, and a long, powerful tail. Their eyes and nostrils sit on top of their head for stalking prey while being almost completely hidden under the water.



2) Turtles, terrapins, sliders, and tortoises.

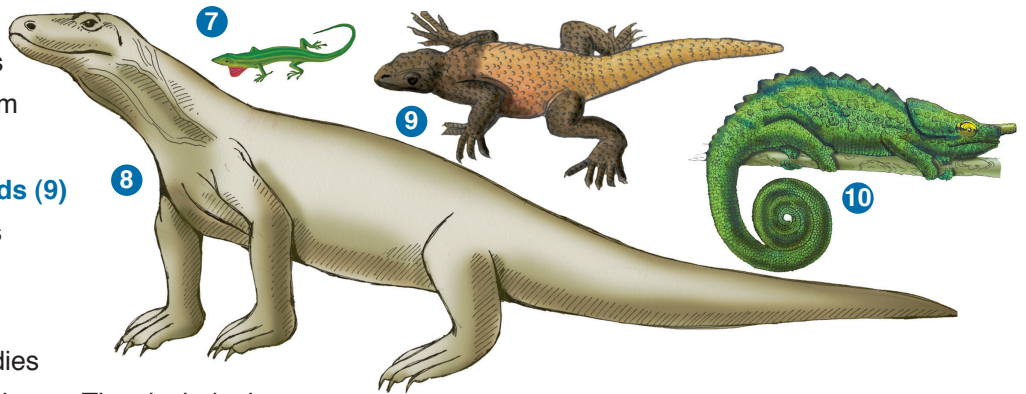
They may vary in shape, size and habitat from **desert tortoises (3)** to wetland **painted (4)** and **snapping turtles (5)** to ocean **sea turtles (6)**, but they all have one thing in common - a shell. This amazing structure is fused to the backbone and ribcage surrounding and protecting the vital organs.



3) Lizards and Snakes are broken down into 2 **Suborders**:

They all have scale-like skin and a moveable upper jaw that lets them open their mouths very wide for big prey.

a. Lizards differ from snake in two ways – they have four legs and ears. They vary in size from tiny **anoles (7)** to the massive **komodo dragon (8)** with **lizards (9)** and **chameleons (10)** all sizes in between.



b. Snakes have elongated bodies and no legs, eyelids or external ears. They include the **rattlesnakes (11)** and **vipers (12)**, **cobras (13)**, **garter (14)** and **milk snakes (15)** and many other families.



4) Tuataras (16) are lizard-like animals found only on New Zealand and the surrounding Islands. They have a double row of teeth on their upper jaw.