

## Reptiles and Amphibians Science Vocabulary

1. **carnivore:** an animal or plant that consumes or obtains nutrients from animals.
2. **reptile:** A cold blooded or (ectothermic) animal with scales, lays soft shelled eggs and breathes by means of lungs.
3. **amphibian:** A cold blooded (or ectothermic) organism such as a frog, toad or salamander, adapted by structure to spending part of its life in water and part of its life on land. (breath from gills during part of life, and lungs as adults.
4. **habitat:** a place in an ecosystem where an organism normally lives.
5. **ecosystem:** an integrated unit of a biological community, its physical environment and interactions.
6. **environment:** the sum of conditions affecting an organism, including all living and nonliving things in an area, such as plants, animals, water, soil, weather, landforms and air.
7. **food chain:** transfer of energy through various stages as a result of feeding patterns of a series of organisms.
8. **food web:** the interconnected feeding relationships in a food chain found in a particular place and time.
9. **predator:** an organism that preys on and consumes animals; usually an animal.
10. **prey:** an organism caught or hunted for food by another organism.
11. **adaptation:** a characteristic of an organism that increases its chance of survival in its environment.
12. **conservation:** controlled use and/or maintenance of natural resources; various efforts to preserve or protect natural resources.
13. **camouflage:** the coloration and/or shape of an organism which allows that organism to blend in with its surroundings (also known as cryptic coloration).
14. **albino:** an organism lacking pigmentation.
15. **vertebrates:** an animal that has a vertebral column.
16. **pigmentation:** having pigments or color.
17. **herbivore:** an animal that feeds on plants.

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- 18. life cycle:** the entire sequence of events in an organism's growth and development.
- 19. organ:** a structure containing different tissues that are organized to carry out a specific function of the body (e.g. heart, lungs, brain, gills etc.)
- 20. ectotherm:** What used to be called cold-blooded. This means that they can not produce sufficient internal heat to maintain a constant body temperature. They are dependant on the ambient temperature to control their body temperature. If it is cold outside they may be found basking in the sun to warm their bodies. If it is hot they may be found in the shade or in the water to cool their body temperature.