



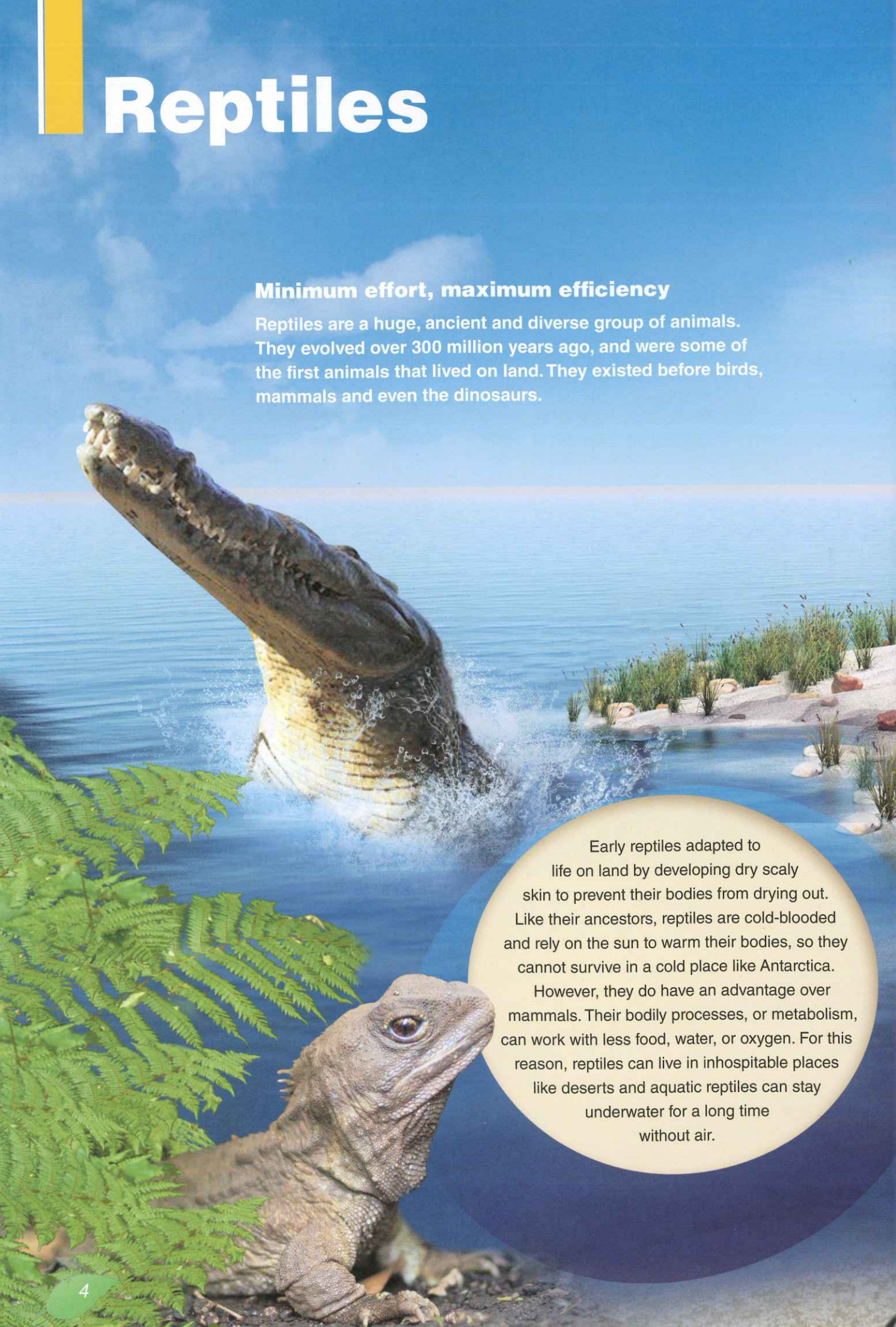
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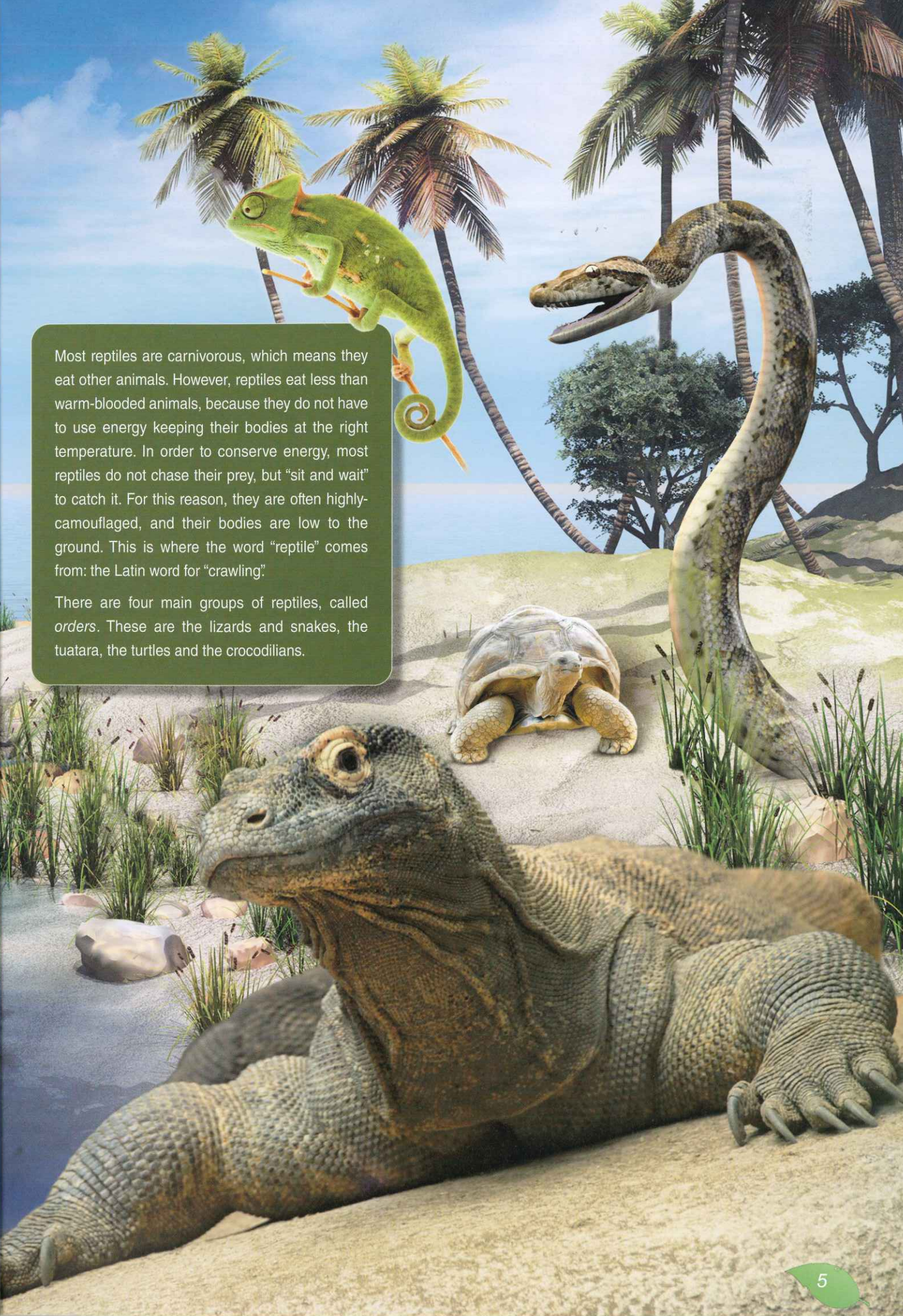
Reptiles

Minimum effort, maximum efficiency

Reptiles are a huge, ancient and diverse group of animals. They evolved over 300 million years ago, and were some of the first animals that lived on land. They existed before birds, mammals and even the dinosaurs.

A composite image featuring a crocodile leaping from the water in the upper half and a lizard on land in the lower half. The crocodile is dark with a lighter underbelly, splashing water. The lizard is brown and textured, sitting on a rocky shore with green ferns. The background is a bright blue sky and water.

Early reptiles adapted to life on land by developing dry scaly skin to prevent their bodies from drying out. Like their ancestors, reptiles are cold-blooded and rely on the sun to warm their bodies, so they cannot survive in a cold place like Antarctica. However, they do have an advantage over mammals. Their bodily processes, or metabolism, can work with less food, water, or oxygen. For this reason, reptiles can live in inhospitable places like deserts and aquatic reptiles can stay underwater for a long time without air.



Most reptiles are carnivorous, which means they eat other animals. However, reptiles eat less than warm-blooded animals, because they do not have to use energy keeping their bodies at the right temperature. In order to conserve energy, most reptiles do not chase their prey, but “sit and wait” to catch it. For this reason, they are often highly-camouflaged, and their bodies are low to the ground. This is where the word “reptile” comes from: the Latin word for “crawling”.

There are four main groups of reptiles, called *orders*. These are the lizards and snakes, the tuatara, the turtles and the crocodylians.

Reptiles

Word Bank

(pp. 4-5)

reptile (n) = a cold-blooded animal


effort (n) = energy needed to do sth

efficiency (n) = the ability to do sth without wasting energy, time, etc.

diverse (adj) = varied

evolve (v) = (of living things) to change form over thousands or millions of years

mammal (n) = a warm-blooded animal that gives birth to live young

dinosaur (n) = 

adapt (to) (v) = to change to better suit a situation

dry (adj) = (of skin and hair) not smooth or wet

scaly skin (phr) = the covering of a reptile's body made up of small tough pieces

ancestor (n) = a plant or animal from which a modern type has evolved

cold-blooded (adj) = having a body that depends on the temperature of the environment

rely on (phr v) = to depend on; to need sth

survive (v) = to continue to exist

advantage (n) = a quality that gives a greater chance of success

bodily process (phr) = an organic series of events taking place in the body

metabolism (n) = the way an animal's body works, such as turning food into energy

oxygen (n) = a colorless gas that is the life-supporting part of air

inhospitable (adj) = difficult to live in

carnivorous (adj) = (of animals) meat-eating

warm-blooded (adj) = having an internally controlled body temperature that does not change with the environment

temperature (n) = a measurement of how hot or how cold sth is


conserve energy (phr) = to be less physically active than usual


chase prey (phr) = to hunt and try to kill another animal for food

highly (adv) = very


camouflaged (pp) = (of an animal) having a color that makes it look similar to its surroundings

crawling (n) = the act of moving with the body very close to the ground

lizard (n) = 

snake (n) = 

tuatara (n) = 

turtle (n) = 

crocodilian (n) = a reptile like a crocodile, alligator, caiman, or gharial

(pp. 6-7)


by far (phr) = by a great degree

species (n) = a group of plants or animals with similar features


varied (adj) = different from each other

range (from ... to) (v) = to vary (within)

tiny (adj) = very small

dwarf gecko (n) = 

mighty (adj) = big and strong


komodo dragon (n) = 

tail (n) = 

break off (phr v) = to come off

escape (v) = to get away from

predator (n) = an animal that hunts and kills other animals for food

chameleon (n) = 

blend in (with) (phr v) = (of an animal) to look the same as its surroundings

background (n) = surroundings

avoid (v) = to prevent sth from happening

evolution (n) = the gradual change of animals or plants over a long period of time

venomous (adj) = poisonous

bite (n) = the action of using the teeth to cut into sth

heat-sensing organ (phr) = (of a snake) a body part that can detect warm objects in the dark

detect (v) = to notice or sense sth

capture (v) = to catch

warm-blooded (adj) = having a high body temperature that does not change when the temperature of the environment changes

in length (phr) = phrase used to refer to the measurement from one end of sth to the other

off (prep) = (of an island) near the coast of

partially-developed (adj) = not fully-grown

purpose (n) = aim; goal

resistant (to) (adj) = not harmed by


lead a nocturnal life (phr) = (of animals) to be active mainly at night

recognize (v) = to identify

shell (n) = the hard protective covering of animals such as turtles

skeleton (n) = all the bones that make up the body

critically-endangered (adj) = in danger of extinction

flipper (n) = 

similar (to) (adj) = almost but not exactly the same

relative (n) = a plant or an animal that belongs to the same group as another one

Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Look at the pictures on pp. 4-7 and check (✓) the animals that you can see. How are these animals related to each other?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A | a crocodilian | <input type="checkbox"/> E | a fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B | a frog | <input type="checkbox"/> F | a turtle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C | a chameleon | <input type="checkbox"/> G | a lizard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D | a snake | | |

b) Listen and read to check your answers. Which animal is NOT included in the list above?

While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and for sentences 1-5 choose the correct answer (A, B, C, or D).

- Reptiles are not found in

A oceans.	C deserts.
B south polar regions.	D lakes and rivers.
- Most reptiles feed on

A meat.	C fish.
B plants.	D all of the above.
- Unlike mammals, reptiles

A have to keep their bodies warm to survive.
B have to eat a lot to survive.
C can survive in places with extremely dry conditions.
D are mostly found in very cold or hot places.
- Snakes' heat-sensing organs allow them to

A catch other snakes.
B hunt during the night.
C fight with predators.
D find a warmer environment to live in.
- Which of the following can be inferred about modern crocodilians?

A They are bigger than their ancestors.
B They appeared after dinosaurs became extinct.
C They are not the most numerous order of reptiles.
D They are the largest living animal species in the world.

3 Read the text and decide if the following sentences are T (true) or F (false).

- Reptiles first appeared on Earth over 300 million years ago.
- Snakes lose their tails to help them escape from predators.
- Snakes used to have legs.
- All reptiles have a third eye.
- Some turtles do not have feet.
- Some ancient crocodiles were able to walk on two legs.

4 Fill in: *conserve, crawl, survive, blend, chase*.

- Some lizards are able to in with the area around them.
- Reptiles must energy more than other animals because they can lose energy very quickly.
- Crocodiles do not usually their prey but wait for it to get near instead.
- Reptiles along the ground.
- Reptiles can in a variety of environments.

After-Reading activities

5 a) **SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY:** List these words under the headings: *carnivorous, bodily processes, nocturnal life, flippers, tails that break off, heat-sensing organs, cold-blooded, blend in with the background, oceans, lakes and rivers, "sit and wait," venomous bite, hard shell, critically-endangered, partially-developed eye, highly-camouflaged, scaly skin, detect and capture.*

characteristics	conservation status	hunting
behavior	habitat	defense
		diet

b) Use the words above to give a short summary of the chapter.

c) **ICT** Collect information and prepare a Powerpoint presentation of the similarities and differences between dinosaurs and saltwater crocodiles.