

Fun Facts

1. **Snakes have no eyelids.** They use a clear scale called a spectacle to cover and protect their eyes.
2. **Chameleons' tongues can be as long as their bodies.** This helps them catch insects from a distance.
3. **Geckos can climb walls.** They have tiny hair-like structures on their feet that create adhesive forces, allowing them to stick to surfaces.
4. **Sea turtles can live up to 100 years.** They have long lifespans similar to humans.
5. **Komodo dragons can smell carrion from up to 2.5 miles away.** Their sense of smell is incredibly acute.
6. **Crocodiles have been around for 200 million years.** They are ancient survivors from the time of dinosaurs.
7. **Anoles can change color like chameleons.** This ability helps them communicate and regulate their body temperature.
8. **Gharials have the longest snouts of any crocodylian.** Their snouts are perfect for catching fish.
9. **The green basilisk lizard can run on water.** It's also known as the "Jesus Christ lizard" for this ability.
10. **Some turtles can breathe through their butts.** This process, called cloacal respiration, helps them stay underwater longer.
11. **Snakes can dislocate their jaws.** This allows them to swallow prey much larger than their heads.
12. **Reptiles have been to space.** Tortoises were sent to the Moon by the Soviet Union in 1968.
13. **Certain geckos can drop their tails as a defense mechanism.** The tail continues to wriggle, distracting predators.
14. **Female Komodo dragons can reproduce without males.** This process is called parthenogenesis.
15. **Iguanas have a third eye on their head.** Known as a parietal eye, it can detect light and movement.
16. **Leatherback sea turtles can dive deeper than any other turtle.** They can reach depths of over 4,000 feet (1,219 meters).
17. **Some snakes give birth to live young.** While most lay eggs, species like boas and vipers give birth to live offspring.
18. **Crocodiles can't stick out their tongues.** Their tongues are attached to the roof of their mouths.
19. **Geckos can regenerate lost tails.** This helps them escape from predators and survive injuries.
20. **The tuatara has a unique "third eye."** This pineal eye is visible only in hatchlings and is thought to help regulate circadian rhythms.
21. **Certain tortoises can survive without food and water for over a year.** Their slow metabolism allows them to go long periods without sustenance.
22. **Bearded dragons can change the color of their beard.** They do this to show aggression, attract mates, or regulate temperature.
23. **Some reptiles use their tails as weapons.** Iguanas, for example, can deliver powerful tail whips to defend themselves.
24. **The Matamoras turtle has a leaf-like appearance.** This camouflage helps it blend into the aquatic environments of South America.
25. **Crocodiles and alligators use tools.** They balance sticks on their snouts to lure birds searching for nesting material.

- 26. The black mamba is one of the fastest snakes.** It can slither at speeds of up to 12.5 miles per hour (20 km/h).
- 27. Gila monsters store fat in their tails.** This helps them survive during periods when food is scarce.
- 28. Some lizards can squirt blood from their eyes.** The horned lizard does this to deter predators.
- 29. The smallest reptile is the nano-chameleon.** It measures just over half an inch (13.5 mm) from nose to tail.
- 30. Turtles have an incredible sense of direction.** They can navigate back to their home beaches after traveling thousands of miles.