



## PROGRAM GOALS

- Learn about reptiles through observation and drawing conclusions

## GRADES

2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>

## MATERIALS

- Pencils
- Clipboards

## STANDARDS

- SCI.2.3.1
- SCI.2.3.2

## RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Ensure students are actively observing reptiles
- Have a group discussion about observation made by students

## Wow, They Can Do Amazing Things!

Practice your students' observation skills as they learn about Fort Wayne Children's Zoo snakes! There are four reptiles in Australian Adventure, and can you help us understand each reptile? See below for a variety of questions to engage your students even further:

- What colors do these reptiles have?
- Why do you think they have these colors on their skin?
- What other animals in the zoo do the reptiles remind you of?
- Where do you think this animal live? High in treetops or on the ground?
- If these reptiles are spending their time there, where do you think they would spend their time in the wild?
- Do you see any hints as to what they eat in their exhibit?

Take your class to the zoo, where they will observe the different reptiles in Australian Adventure. Encourage students to read the signs as they walk and observe the reptiles. Once they completed the chart, split the class into small groups. Have the students in each group share their findings and compare each other findings. Be on the lookout for other awesome animals around the zoo! Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email [education@kidszoo.org](mailto:education@kidszoo.org) to express how you used these supplemental activities!

## What's Unique About These Reptiles?

**Wheeler's Knob-Tailed Gecko:** When you look at one of the geckos, you may notice that the shape of the tail actually mimics the shape of the head – this helps the geckos stay safe because predators can become confused as to which end is which!

**Jungle Carpet Python:** They are non-venomous snakes living in the rainforests of Australia. These pythons are constrictors, meaning they kill their prey by squeezing them tightly until they can't breathe.

**Black- Tailed Monitor:** At the zoo, they hunt for insects like crickets! They can often be found basking on branches. Their sharp claws help them climb easily on trees and rocks to avoid danger.

**Woma Python:** These pythons do not dig their own burrows, but they will use their triangular heads to enlarge a pre-existing shelter. They have specialized tails that they wiggle around to trick prey into thinking it is food!





# Australia's Reptile Observation



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Name of Reptile</b>				
<b>Lizard or Snake</b>				
<b>What's their color?</b>				
<b>Where does it live?</b>				
<b>What does it eat?</b>				
<b>Does it have legs or no legs?</b>				
<b>What's its conservation status?</b>				
<b>Write an interesting fact about their behavior.</b>				