

## **Reptile and Amphibian Facts**

**\*All reptiles and amphibians are cold blooded- meaning their body temperature is the same as their surrounding temperature.**

**\*They can be found on every continent except Antarctica.**

**\*Reptiles and amphibians come in many shapes and sizes. The largest reptile is the saltwater crocodile which can grow 23 feet in length. The smallest amphibians are under the size of a nickel.**

**\*Bullfrogs are the largest frogs in the US, and have been known to eat insects, scorpions, birds, bats, other frogs and even baby alligators!**

**\*The heaviest snake is the anaconda, and the longest is the reticulated python.**

**\*The largest turtle is the leatherback sea turtle.**

**\*The largest lizard is the komodo dragon.**

**\*Someone who studies reptiles and amphibians is called a herpetologist.**

**\*The most poisonous snake in the world is the Inland Taipan found in Australia. It has enough venom in it's bite to kill several people.**

**\*Amphibians are often used in science, and African clawed frogs were once used to test if women were pregnant.**

**\*There are many myths around reptiles and amphibians (especially reptiles) that make us afraid of them. Snakes do not make themselves into a loop and roll. Milk snakes do not milk cows. Reptiles and amphibians are not out to hurt people- they would rather avoid people than confront them. Blue tailed skinks are not poisonous. There are only two types of poisonous lizards in the world- the beaded lizards of Mexico and Guatemala and the Gila monster of the southwest US.**

**\*Some turtles and tortoises are known to have lived over 100 years!**

**\*Reptiles and amphibians aren't good pets for everyone. They require special enclosures, lighting, humidity and heat. Some people believe a reptile will only get as big as it's enclosure is, but this is not true. The baby iguanas you see in a pet shop can get over 6 feet long! The cute little alligators can get over 15 feet long and become dangerous to handle. Always research a reptile or amphibian before you think about getting one as a pet.**