



ANSWER KEY

Exercise: 1

Instructions: Answer the questions below.

1. What is the name of the class to which all species of reptile belong? The name of the class that contains the reptiles is Reptilia.
2. What are the basic characteristics of reptiles that distinguish them from other animals? Reptiles have dry skin with keratinized epidermal scales. They have claws if limbs are present. Egg layers lay eggs that are amniotic and have a shell that enables the eggs to develop on land. They are also ectothermic, or “cold-blooded” meaning that their body temperature is determined by the temperature of their surroundings.
3. Give some examples of reptiles. Turtles, snakes, lizards, alligators, crocodiles, and tortoises are all examples of reptiles.
4. Define the word oviparous and use oviparous in a sentence. Which species of Idaho reptiles are oviparous? Oviparous refers to animals that lay eggs that develop and hatch outside of the mother’s body.
5. How would you distinguish between a turtle, snake, and a lizard? Turtles have an outer shell. Snakes do not have legs (not noticeable ones), and lizards do not have an outer shell while they do have limbs.
6. Of the two families Phrynosomatidae and Scincidae, which one is more closely related to Teiidae? How can you tell? Scincidae is more closely related to the family Teiidae. This can be determined by looking at the branch points on the family tree diagram.
7. Of all the families in the family tree, which one is most closely related to Viperidae? Colubridae is the most related to Viperidae because they have the fewest number of branch points between each other according to the family tree.
8. What is the name of the only species of turtle found in Idaho? In what type of habitat does this species live? The Painted Turtle is the only species of turtle found in Idaho. They are found in shallow lakes and ponds, marshes, and also slow moving streams and rivers. They are rarely found on land.
9. What are some basic characteristics of lizards that distinguish them from other reptiles? Lizards are characterized by having four limbs, visible ear openings, and moveable eyelids, they also do not have a shell like a turtle does. These characteristics can distinguish lizards from other kinds of Idaho reptiles.
10. Which family of lizards found in Idaho contains the most species? The family Scincidae contains the largest number of lizards.
11. What are some basic characteristics of Snakes that distinguish them from other reptiles? Snakes do not have limbs. They also lack eyelids as well as external ear openings. Snakes also have an elongate body.
12. What vestigial trait do members of the Boidae family have? The Boidae has a vestigial pelvic girdle as well as pelvic spurs, which are the remains of the hind limbs that were more fully developed in their ancestors.