



ANSWER KEY

Exercise: 1

Instructions: Idaho is home to many amphibians. You can use the key to identify the species listed below. Use the key to compare your species with the choices given and choose the option that best matches the characteristics of your species. It is important that you pay close attention to detail. If you are careful, this should lead you to page where you can name it and tell how it lives.

1. Scientific Name- *Crotalus viridis*

Common Name: Western Rattlesnake

Habitat: Dry regions with limited vegetation, often in rocky areas

Diet: Small mammals including mice, rats, ground squirrels, rabbits, birds, & lizards



Photo by Charles R. Peterson

2. Scientific Name- *Eumeces skiltonianus*

Common Name: Western Skink

Habitat: Found in many areas including pinion-juniper forests, grassy areas, desert shrubs, and canyon rims. Often also found near water.

Diet: Insects, spiders, and worms



Photo by Charles R. Peterson

3. Scientific Name- *Chrysemys picta*

Common Name: Painted Turtle

Habitat: Shallow lakes and ponds. Slow moving streams and rivers. Rarely found on land

Diet: Various plants and animals, aquatic insect larvae

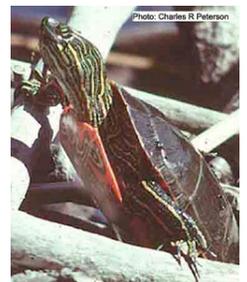


Photo by Charles R. Peterson

4. Scientific Name- *Charina bottae*

Common Name: Rubber Boa

Habitat: Large variety, desert shrubs to open pine forests. Often found in rocky areas and sometimes near water

Diet: Mice and shrews mostly, also lizards, snakes, and small birds



Photo by Charles R. Peterson

5. Scientific Name- *Phrynosoma platyrhinos*

Common Name: Desert Horned Lizard

Habitat: Arid regions with loose, sandy, or gravelly soils

Diet: Mostly ants, also beetles, spiders, and some plant material



Photo by Stephan Burton

6. Scientific Name- *Crotaphytus bicinctores*

Common Name: Mojave Black-collared Lizard

Habitat: Arid habitats, rocky areas, places with sparse vegetation

Diet: Insects, small lizards, also flowers and leaves



Photo by William P. Leonard

7. Scientific Name- *Diadophis punctatus*

Common Name: Ringneck Snake

Habitat: Forested brushy areas, open hillsides with rocks and debris

Diet: Worms, slugs, invertebrates, salamanders, frogs, and small reptiles



Photo by Charles R. Peterson

8. Scientific Name- *Hypsiglena torquata*

Common Name: Night Snake

Habitat: Active at night. Desert lowlands that are rocky, areas near rodent burrows

Diet: Small reptiles, eggs, insects, salamanders, and frogs



Photo by Charles R. Peterson