

Name: _____

Is That a Snake or a Lizard?

By Guy Belleranti

Did you know snakes are not the only reptiles without legs? Some lizards are also legless!

The best-known legless lizards belong to a group called glass lizards. The name comes from the fact that their tails can



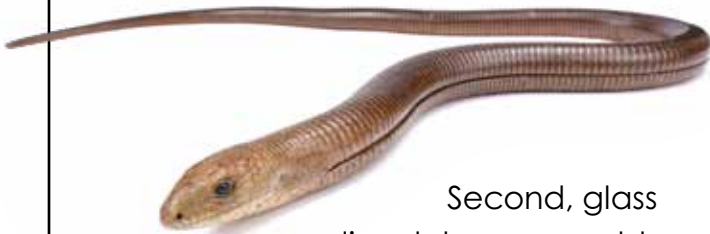
Third, glass lizards have external ear openings. These are holes on the sides of their heads that we can see. Snakes do not have ear openings. However, snakes



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lizards can lose and replace their tails. If a snake loses its tail, it's gone for good. Depending on the injury, a snake may survive losing its tail, but it will never grow a new one.



Second, glass lizards have movable eyelids. Snakes have no eyelids. Instead, snakes have a thin, see-through scale covering each eye. These scales are replaced when a snake sheds its skin.

Some can eat very small reptiles and rodents too.

Snakes often eat prey much wider than their mouths. In fact, some snakes swallow prey three times the size of their head. That's like you swallowing a large melon!

How can snakes swallow such large meals? They have flexible body parts that allow their jaws to stretch around the animal they're eating. Their teeth help pull the prey in. It takes days, or sometimes weeks, for a snake to digest its meal. One thing is certain – they don't need dessert after their dinner!

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1. Why are the legless lizards in this article called glass lizards?



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3. Reread the following selection from the article:

Third, glass lizards have external ear openings. These are holes on the sides of their heads that we can see.

What does the underlined word mean? Use clues from the text to help you.

- a. on the outside of something
 - b. on the inside of something
 - c. invisible
 - d. underground
4. What does the author say a glass lizard might be doing when it loses its tail?

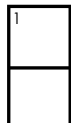
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Complete the crossword using the words from the story listed in the word bank below.



Word Bank

CARNIVORE

PREDATOR

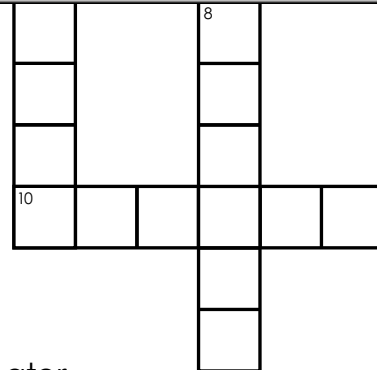
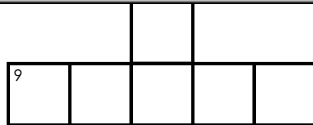
DIGEST

PREY



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Down

1. bendy
2. an animal that hunts and eats other animals
4. the type of animal a lizard or snake is
6. a moveable piece of skin that covers the eye
8. a small animal such as a mouse or squirrel

Across

3. meat eater
5. an animal hunted by another for food
7. damage to a body part
9. what a snake does when it loses its skin
10. to change food into simpler forms in the body

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In the article, "Is That a Snake or a Lizard?" you learned how glass lizards and snakes are different even though they look alike.

Imagine you're at a zoo and see an animal that looks like a snake. Or maybe it's a glass lizard! The sign for the exhibit is missing. On the lines below, describe what differences you could look for to decide if the animal is a snake or glass



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d. underground

4. What does the author say a glass lizard might be doing when it loses its tail?

It might be escaping a predator.

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4. the type of animal a lizard or snake is
6. a moveable piece of skin that covers the eye
8. a small animal such as a mouse or squirrel
7. damage to a body part
9. what a snake does when it loses its skin
10. to change food into simpler forms in the body