

Animal Facts:

Lizards

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Lizards are a group of 3,800 scaly skinned reptiles, varying from a few centimetres long to the 3 m long Komodo dragon.



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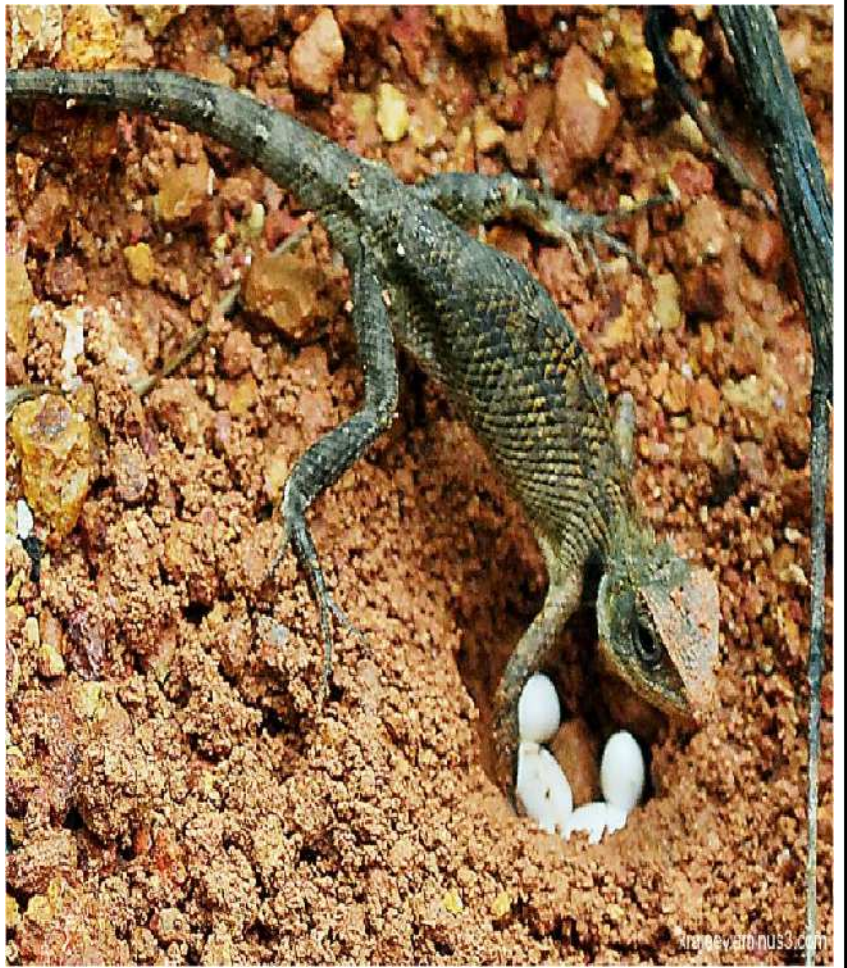
Lizards cannot control their own body heat, and so rely on sunshine for warmth. This is why they live in warm climates and bask in the sun for hours each day.



Lizards move in many ways - running, scampering and slithering. Some can glide. Unlike mammals, their limbs stick out sideways rather than downwards.



Most lizards lay eggs, although a few give birth to live young. But unlike birds or mammals, a mother lizard does not nurture (look after) her young.



Most lizards are meat eaters, feeding on insects and other small creatures.



The glass lizard has no legs. Its tail may break off and lie wriggling as a decoy if attacked. It can grow another tail later.



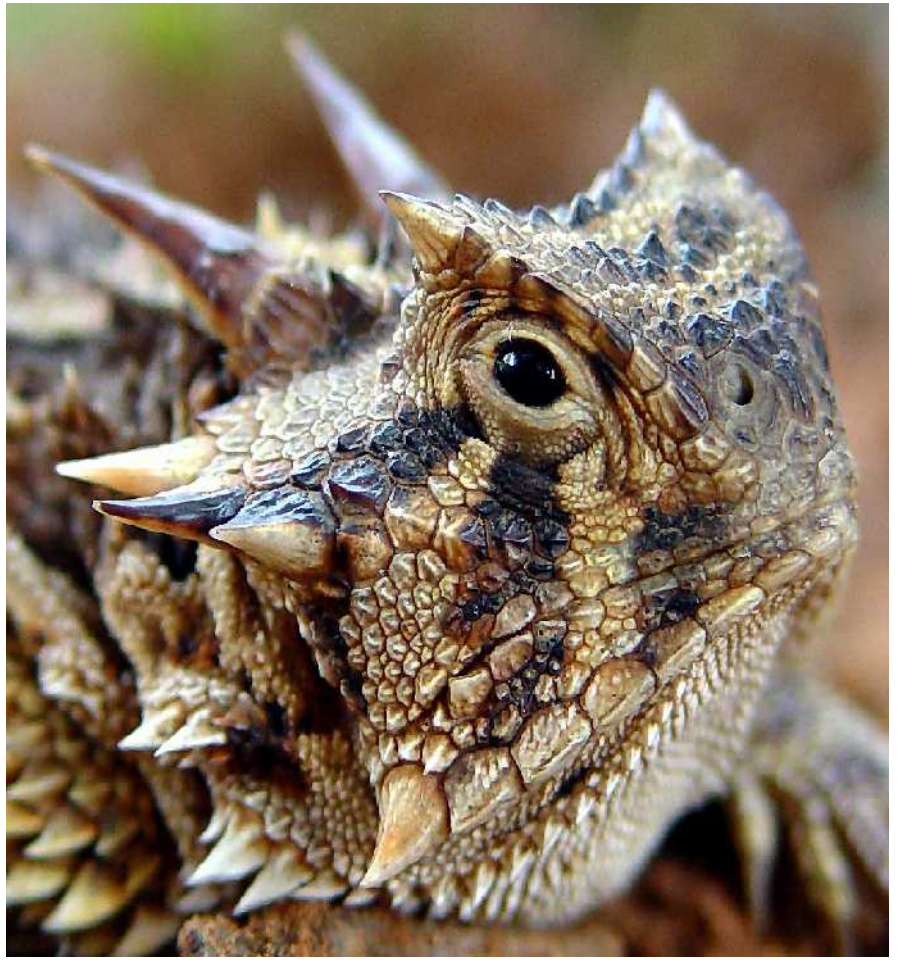
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The Australian frilled lizard has a ruff around its neck. To put off attackers, it can spread out its ruff to make itself look much bigger.



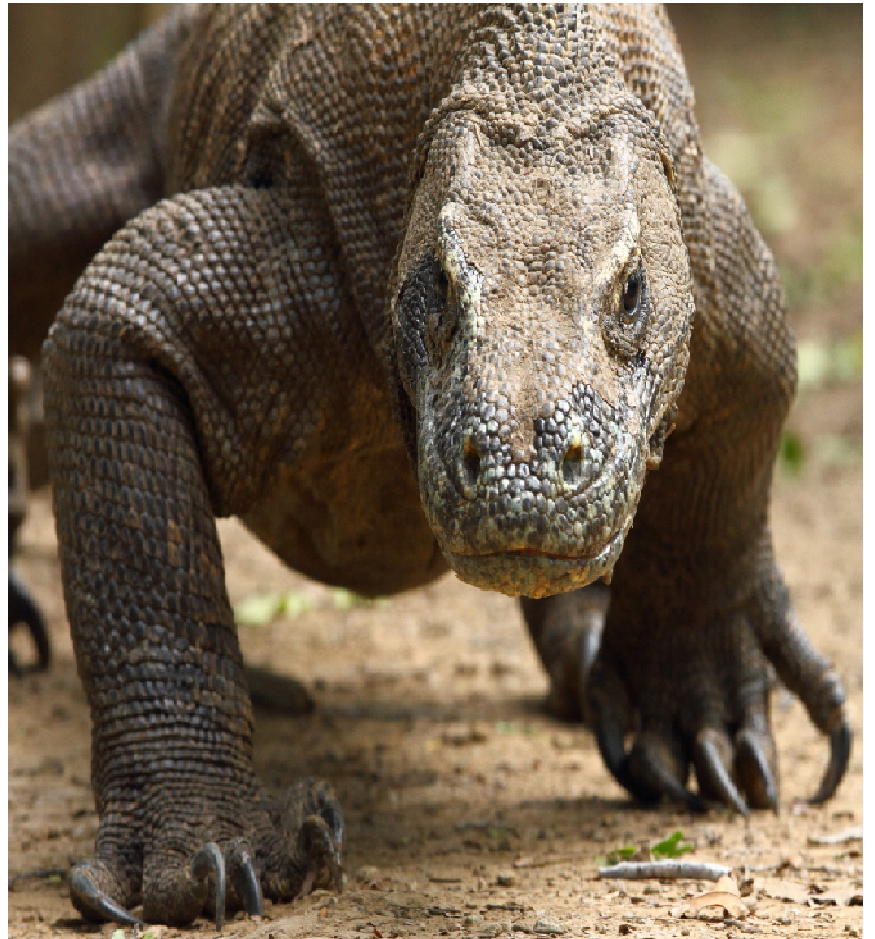
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Horned lizards can squirt a jet of blood from their eyes almost as far as 1 m to put off attackers.



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The Komodo dragon of Sumatra is the biggest lizard, weighing up to 150 kg. It can catch deer and pigs and swallow them whole.



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The Basilisk lizard is also known as the Jesus Christ lizard because it can walk on water.

