

Oregon Herptiles Poster Key

Oregon Herps

1a

1b

2a

7a

x

7b

2b

8a

x_x

3a

8b

x_x

3b

9a

4a

x

x

4b

x

9b

5a

x

5b

10a

x

6a

x

10b

x

6b

x

Text for Oregon Herptiles Poster Key

Photocopy the box called "Oregon Herps" and boxes 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 5b, 7a, 7b, 9a, and 9b and cut them out. Laminate them to the poster. (See page 101 for the poster layout.)

1 a

Reptiles

Reptiles are one of the two major groups of herps.

- Skin: scaly and waterproof
- Feet: most have claws on their feet
- Eggs: have tough shells, are laid on land

[In Oregon, reptiles who do not lay eggs but bear live young include the short-horned lizard, northern alligator lizard, rubber boa, and rattlesnake.]

- Young: look like miniature version of adults at birth
- Some lie in the sun to raise their body temperature.

Two of the four groups of reptiles are found in Oregon. One group includes snakes and lizards; the other group is turtles. The two groups not found in Oregon are the Crocodylians and Tuatara. (Tuatara are lizardlike reptiles found on about 30 small islands off the coast of New Zealand.)

Go to 2

1 b

Amphibians

Reptiles are one of the two major groups of herps.

- Skin: moist with no scales
- Feet: without claws
- Eggs: soft, without shells, laid in water or a moist area
- Young: do not look like adults at birth. They go through a series of changes, called metamorphosis, to reach adult form. Young amphibian larvae breathe through gills.

Two of the three groups of amphibians are found in Oregon. One is frogs (which includes toads); the other is salamanders. The obscure, wormlike Ceacilians (see-SIL-ee-ans) do not live in Oregon.

Go to 7

Oregon Herps

The word **herps** comes from the word **herpetology**. This is the branch of zoology that studies reptiles and amphibians. Reptiles evolved from early amphibians.

What, in general, do reptiles and amphibians have in common?

- Cold blooded
- Most lay eggs.
- Most shed their skins when they grow.
- Most have an excellent sense of smell.
- Some use chromatophores [pigment-containing skin cells] to change color in response to conditions in their environment.

2a

Body scaly and waterproof, encased in a shell.

Turtles

2b

Body scaly and waterproof, not encased in a shell, with or without legs.

Lizards and Snakes—Go to 3

3a

Body scaly and waterproof, not encased in a shell, with legs present.

Lizards—Go to 4

3b

Body scaly and waterproof, not encased in a shell, without legs present.

Snakes—Go to 5

Most snakes have a pair of sensory pockets, called the Jacobson's organ, at the back of the mouth. When snakes flick their tongues in and out, they are smelling the environment. The tongue collects molecules from the air and ground and deposits them in the pockets of the Jacobson's organ.

5b

Body scaly and waterproof, without legs. Tail without rattles.

Go to 6

7a

Body long and slender, moist and smooth, with no scales. Four legs of generally equal length, with 4 toes on each front foot and 5 toes on each hind foot.

Salamanders—Go to 8

7b

Body moist and skin smooth, with no scales, or have a dry, warty appearance. The hind legs are modified for hopping or leaping. Four toes on each foot; the back foot generally is webbed. In the mating season, males advertise their presence with loud calls.

Frogs and Toads—Go to 9

9a

Skin appears dry and rough but not scaly. Some with lumps, called tubercles or warts, on skin. Legs modified for short hops or running on all four legs. No teeth.

Toads

9b

Moist, smooth skin. Long, powerful back legs allow huge leaps. Small teeth on the upper jaw.

Frogs—Go to 10