

Text for Herp Species Cards

I have a scaly, waterproof body, encased in a shell. The top of my shell is drab brown to black, the underside is cream to yellow with large, dark brown markings.

Western pond turtle

Note: The above Species Card goes below the text for box 2a

4a

I have a scaly, waterproof body with legs. Sometimes I am called a "blue-belly." I can be seen sunning myself on fence rails. My scales have a slightly rough appearance.

Western fence lizard

4b

I have a scaly, waterproof body with legs. My young often have a blue tail. But be careful! That tail breaks off easily. My scales have rounded edges that overlap smoothly, giving me a shiny appearance.

Western skink

5a

I have a scaly, waterproof body without legs. My head is broad, almost triangular in shape, to hold my poison glands. I am venomous. I have a heat-sensing pit between my eyes and my nose. If you disturb me, I will shake my tail rattles at you in warning.

Rattlesnake

6a

I may have a beautiful yellow or orange stripe down my back, a red-orange head, and side-spot markings as well. There are many different groups of coloring used by my kind. I can eat the poisonous rough-skinned newt without ill effect.

Common garter snake

6b

I am a large snake, sometimes growing to 40 inches long. I am tan or yellowish with brown markings on top and white or cream below. Sometimes I am confused with the Rattlesnake, but I have no rattles and am not venomous.

Gopher (or Bull) snake

8a

I have a moist, smooth body with no scales. I have four legs of generally equal length. I have a dark-colored body with yellow, tan, or light green stripes and blotches down my back.

Long-toed salamander

8b

I have a grainy skin surface that gives me my name. I am brown above and bright orange on my underside. I live in forested areas and return to a pond or stream in breeding season. I have the most toxic poison of any amphibian in Oregon, but I rarely release my poison.

Rough-skinned newt

I have a body that is covered with warts. My hind legs are modified for short hops or running on all fours. I am large, growing to 4½ inches. I am the only one of my kind common in Oregon.

Western toad

Note: The above Species Card goes below the text for box 9a

10a

I have a moist, smooth skin that is usually grass green but may be tan or brown. My long, powerful back legs are for taking huge leaps. I am about 1½ inches long and have a black stripe through my eye.

Pacific tree (or Chorus) frog

10b

I am the largest frog in Oregon—sometimes I am over 7 inches long. I have moist, smooth skin and long, powerful back legs. I am not a native, and my predatory habits have caused the decline of many native fish and amphibians.

Bullfrog