**Life – Reptiles and Amphibians**

*Based on the BBC Life Series*

1. The **Komodo dragon** is a top predator. What does this mean?
2. The **waterfall toad** is unable to hop enough to evade predators. What adaptation does it have instead?
3. **Pebble toads** have a similar problem. How does it escape the tarantula?
4. How do **caiman crocodiles** take advantage of the rapid flow of the river during the wet season?
5. What is the disadvantage that reptiles and amphibians have as cold-blooded animals? How do they maintain their body temperature?



1. Describe how the **basilisk lizard** and **Brazilian pygmy gecko** are able to use water as a means of escape from predators.
2. The **panther chameleon** is described as being completely adapted for stealth. List four physical adaptations present in this reptile that make it such an effective hunter.
3. Describe two ways that the **namaqua chameleon** uses its physical adaptations to thrive in the desert.
	1. Why do the males of this species mate so aggressively?
4. The male **red-sided garter snakes** are shown trying to warm up as quickly as possible. Why? What does the male that arose from hibernation late do to catch up?
5. The **horned lizard** is able to successfully defend itself and its nest from two snakes: an egg-eater and a lizard eater. Name the two snakes, and explain how the lizard fended them off.
	1. Egg-Eater:
	2. Lizard-Eater

1. **Sea kraits** are well-adapted for living underwater, but their eggs cannot survive there. Where do the kraits go to lay their eggs?
2. After the **giant bullfrogs** are finished mating, one male (called a “guardian male”) is left behind. What does he do to help the survival of the tadpoles?



1. Describe how the **komodo dragons** are able to successfully hunt a water buffalo, which is ten times their size.

**Classification**

*Describe a characteristic that defines each of these orders of reptiles and amphibians.*

**Order Urodela**

“Amphibians with Tails”

**Order Gymnophonia**

“Snake-like amphibians”

**Class Amphibia**

**Order Anura**

“Tailless Amphibians”

**Phylum Chordata**

**Order Squamata**

“Lizards and Snakes”

**Order Testudines**

“Reptiles with Shells”

**Class Reptilia**

**Order Crocodilia**

“Alligators, Crocodiles, and Caimans”

*List each species of reptile or amphibian in this episode of Life. Put a check under the column for the order it belongs in, then visit* [***www.iucnredlist.org***](http://www.iucnredlist.org) *and find its conservation status. If the animal is not listed, write “not available.”*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Common Name** | **Urodela** | **Anura** | **Gymnophonia** | **Squamata** | **Testudines** | **Crocodilia** | **IUCN Redlist Status** |
| **Komodo Dragon** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Waterfall Toad** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Pebble Toad** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Caiman** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Basilisk Lizard** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Pygmy Gecko** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Panther Chameleon** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Namaqua Chameleon** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Red-sided Garter Snake** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Horned Lizard** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sea Krait** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Giant Bullfrog** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |