



REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: Similarities and Differences

Objective: Students will use their existing knowledge to separate reptiles and amphibians into a Venn diagram based on the similarities and differences of their characteristics.

Age Group: Elementary

Materials:

- ✓ 2 hula hoops
- ✓ Reptile and amphibian cards (provided with activity sheet)

Curriculum Connection: K.L.1: Compare characteristics of animals that make them alike and different from other animals and non-living things

What you need to know:

North Carolina's wetlands are important habitat for many species, especially amphibians and reptiles. Amphibians rely on the temporary nature of wetlands for reproduction. When they lay their eggs in lakes and ponds, the eggs have a much higher chance of being eaten by aquatic dwellers like fish. Reptiles find good sources of food in wetlands, and they like the proximity to drinking water while also having dry land to lay their eggs. Reptiles like alligators, aquatic turtles, and water snakes must have water to live in but also dry land to use while basking in the sun.

The Activity:

Listed below are characteristics of amphibians and reptiles. Some apply only to reptiles, some apply only to amphibians, and some apply to both. Cut out the attached cards and have your students create a Venn diagram using 2 hula hoops on the floor. Have them place amphibian characteristics on one side, reptile characteristics on the other, and shared characteristics in the middle where the circles overlap.

Amphibians	Both	Reptiles
<p>Frogs Toads Salamanders Mudpuppies Hellbenders</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Lay eggs in water</p> <p>Undergo metamorphosis as they grow (look very different when they are born compared to when they are adults)</p> <p>Feel slimy</p> <p>Breathe through their skin</p> <p>Eggs are soft or jelly-like</p>	<p>Have a backbone</p> <p>Need water to survive</p> <p>Eat insects and other animals</p> <p>Eat plants</p> <p>Ectothermic (cold-blooded)</p> <p>Good eyesight</p> <p>Can be found in wetlands</p>	<p>Snakes Turtles Alligators Lizards Skinks</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Lay eggs on land</p> <p>Have scales</p> <p>Have 4 legs when they hatch</p> <p>Skin is dry</p>

Frogs	Toads
Salamanders	Lay eggs in water

Feel slimy	Breathe through their skin
Eggs are soft or jelly-like	Have a backbone
Need water to survive	Eat insects and other animals
Eat plants	Ectothermic (cold-blooded)
Good eyesight	Snakes

Turtles	Alligators
Lizards/Skinks	Lay eggs on land
Have scales	Have 4 legs when they hatch
Mudpuppies	Hellbenders
Can be found in wetlands	Skin is dry