



NATURE DETECTIVES



Hello Nature Detectives - are you ready to explore?

Today, let's discover reptiles. Remember to observe closely with your eyes, approach wildlife quietly and look for reptiles but do not touch. Enjoy!



Reptiles:

Begin your detective work by figuring out where your adventures will take you.

Tip: Not all turtles live in or around the water and not all snakes live only on land!

 **Pond Walk:** Painted turtles, snapping turtles and Northern watersnakes like water.

 **Woodland Walk:** Eastern box turtles and Eastern garter snakes live in woodlands.

You can tell that an animal is a reptile because it:

- Breathes air (Do you breathe air? Try!)
- Is a vertebrate which means it has a backbone (Do you have a backbone? Feel it!)
- Has special skin made up of scales and sheds its skin (Do you have scales and shed?)
- Is ectothermic, or cold-blooded, and can't control its own body temperature.

MOVE like a reptile!

 Snakes *do not* have legs - they use their flexible body and muscles to get around.

 Turtles *do* have legs - many have webbed feet with claws to move in and out of water.

What do Pennsylvania reptiles eat? How do they eat?

 Snakes are *carnivores* (eat animals). Some swallow food whole, others constrict prey.

 Turtles are *omnivores* (eat plants & animals). They have no teeth but sharp jaw edges.

Pretend you are a turtle or snake and  for the food you might eat:

Plants	Berries	Insects	Worms	Slugs	Rodents	Fish	Frogs & Toads
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? What was your favorite part about discovering reptiles today?

 Find something cool? Share your detective skills with us: @JAGardens, #JenkinsArboretum