

## Core Skills Analysis

### Science - Animal Biology & Ecology

- Levi learned to identify several animal species, including a bearded dragon, tarantula, tortoise, small python, and alligator, recognizing specific animal traits.
- He gained observation skills by noting physical characteristics and textures, particularly when holding the small alligator and describing how it looked and felt.
- Levi practiced inquiry skills by asking questions directly to an expert wrangler, enhancing his understanding of the animals' behaviors and habitats.
- The activity exposed Levi to diverse reptile and arachnid species, fostering curiosity about wildlife and ecological diversity.

### Tips

To build on Levi's experience with the Gatorland presentation, encourage him to create a simple animal journal where he draws the animals he saw and writes or dictates facts he remembers about each. Visiting a local natural history museum or zoo to observe reptiles and arachnids can provide hands-on learning and deepen understanding. Introduce storytelling with animal characters to explore their habitats and behaviors creatively or organize a mini research project where Levi investigates one favorite animal from the presentation and shares findings with family or friends. These approaches reinforce observation, research, and communication skills while nurturing empathy for animals.

### Book Recommendations

- [National Geographic Readers: Lizards](#) by Karen Garrett: An engaging and informative introduction to various lizard species with vibrant photos ideal for young readers.
- [Tarantulas](#) by Nicola Davies: A fascinating look at tarantulas, explaining their life cycle, habitat, and behavior in an accessible way.
- [Crocodiles and Alligators](#) by Anne Schreiber: Explores the differences and similarities between crocodiles and alligators with clear photos and fun facts.

### Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.1 - Ask and answer questions about key details in a text (applicable to listening and engaging in shared informational presentations).
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.8 - Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer questions.
- NGSS 1-LS1-1 - Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals need to survive.

### Try This Next

- Create a tactile collage depicting textures of the animals seen, such as scaly, rough, or smooth, using craft materials.
- Write and illustrate a mini 'Animal Expert' booklet featuring facts and drawings of each animal from the presentation.