

Materials Needed:

- Paper (plain white and construction paper)
 - Crayons or colored pencils
 - Pencil
 - Optional: Child-safe scissors and glue
 - Optional: Pre-printed animal pictures (amphibians/reptiles) if drawing is difficult
-

Introduction: Welcome Animal Explorer!

Have you ever seen a frog jump into a pond or a lizard scurry across a rock? These amazing creatures belong to two different groups: Amphibians and Reptiles! They might seem similar because they are both vertebrates (animals with backbones) and are cold-blooded (meaning their body temperature changes with the environment), but they have some super cool differences. Let's investigate!

Meet the Amphibians!

Amphibians are like masters of disguise because they live a 'double life' - 'amphibian' means 'both kinds of life'. They usually start their lives in water and then move to land as adults.

- **Skin:** Amphibians have smooth, moist skin. They can actually breathe and absorb water through their skin! Cool, right?
- **Eggs:** They lay their eggs in water or very damp places. The eggs are soft and jelly-like, without a hard shell.
- **Babies:** Baby amphibians (like tadpoles) usually hatch in water, have gills to breathe underwater, and look very different from their parents. They go through a big change called metamorphosis to become adults.
- **Examples:** Frogs, Toads, Salamanders, Newts.

Meet the Reptiles!

Reptiles are awesome survivors, and many live in dry places.

- **Skin:** Reptiles have dry skin covered in scales, plates, or even shells! This tough skin protects them and keeps them from drying out.
- **Eggs:** Most reptiles lay eggs on land. Their eggs have a soft or hard shell to protect the baby inside.
- **Babies:** Baby reptiles usually look like mini versions of their parents when they hatch. They breathe air with lungs right from the start.
- **Examples:** Lizards, Snakes, Turtles, Tortoises, Crocodiles, Alligators.

Spot the Difference!

Let's review the main differences:

- **Skin:** Amphibians = Moist & Smooth / Reptiles = Dry & Scaly
 - **Eggs:** Amphibians = Soft, jelly-like, in water / Reptiles = Shelled, on land
 - **Babies:** Amphibians = Start in water, gills, metamorphosis / Reptiles = Mini adults, lungs
-

Activity Time: Amphibian vs. Reptile Sort!

Let's put our knowledge to the test!

1. Take two pieces of construction paper. Label one "Amphibians" and the other "Reptiles".
2. On plain paper, draw (or use pre-printed pictures of) a frog, a lizard, a turtle, a salamander, a snake, and a toad.
3. Think about the characteristics we learned. Cut out your drawings/pictures.
4. Glue or place each animal onto the correct paper (Amphibian or Reptile).
5. Explain *why* you put each animal in that group! (e.g., "The frog goes with amphibians because it has smooth skin and lays eggs in water.")

Conclusion

Wow! You learned so much about amazing amphibians and radical reptiles today. Even though they are both cold-blooded vertebrates, they have unique features like their skin, eggs, and how their babies grow. Keep an eye out for these fascinating creatures in nature (but remember to observe safely from a distance)!