

Day 1: Getting to Know Crested Geckos

Learning Objectives

- By the end of the day, the student will be able to identify the crested gecko and describe its natural habitat and general characteristics (SMART: by today's end).

Materials Needed

- Picture books or printouts of crested geckos
- Access to the internet or a nature documentary video about crested geckos
- Notebook or journal for notes and drawings
- Colored pencils or markers

Lesson Introduction

- Begin by asking: "What do you know about geckos or reptiles? Have you ever seen a lizard as a pet?"
- Show images or videos of crested geckos living in the wild.
- Connect to personal interests by asking about favorite animals or pets and comparing them briefly with crested geckos.

Instructional Procedures

- **Exploration:** Watch a short documentary or video clips showing crested geckos in their natural environment (New Caledonia rainforests).
- **Explanation:** Discuss key features: size, crests, nocturnal behavior, diet, and origin.
- **Application:** Draw and label a detailed picture of a crested gecko; write 3 interesting facts.
- **Reflection:** Discuss what surprised the student and what they want to learn next about crested geckos.

Assessment and Evaluation

- Review the drawing and facts for accuracy.
- Informally quiz with questions like "Where do crested geckos live?" or "What makes them unique?"

Integration with Other Subjects

- Science: Basic biology/ecology of reptiles.
- Art: Drawing and labeling.
- Writing: Journaling facts and observations.

Differentiation and Personalization

- For visual learners, provide ample images and videos.
- For writing-strong learners, encourage detailed journal entries.
- Enrichment: Research other gecko species.
- Support: Use simpler language and assisted reading materials.

Real-Life Applications and Field Activities

- Visit a local pet store or reptile exhibit (if possible) to see crested geckos or similar reptiles.
- Plan a nature walk focusing on reptiles or insects as comparative study.

Resources for Further Learning

- Book: *Crested Geckos: The Complete Guide* by Fabio Masotti (check library or online).
 - Website: PangeaReptile.com for crested gecko info.
 - Video: National Geographic animal videos (select reptile clip).
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Day 2: Setting Up a Home for a Crested Gecko

Learning Objectives

- The student will be able to list and explain the components needed to create a proper habitat for a crested gecko and understand their environmental needs (SMART: by lesson end).

Materials Needed

- Photos or diagrams of crested gecko terrariums
- Items for a mock terrarium setup (containers, plants, paper towels, branches)
- Internet or book resources on habitat setup
- Notebook for notes

Lesson Introduction

- Show photos of different terrarium setups for reptiles.
- Ask: "What would you want to include in a home for a little gecko? Why?"

Instructional Procedures

- **Exploration:** Examine pictures of terrariums, identify main components (size, ventilation, substrate, hiding spots, climbing areas).
- **Explanation:** Discuss temperature, humidity, daytime length, substrates (like coconut fiber), and plants.
- **Application:** Using household items, create a small model of a gecko habitat or sketch a detailed design.
- **Reflection:** Discuss why each component is important for the gecko's well-being.

Assessment and Evaluation

- Have the student explain their habitat setup and reasoning behind each part.
- Use verbal Q&A to check understanding of environment needs.

Integration with Other Subjects

- Science: Ecosystems and environmental needs.
 - Math: Measuring terrarium dimensions or humidity ranges.
 - Art: Designing and creating the habitat model or drawing.
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Differentiation and Personalization

- Provide templates or herbarium samples for tactile learners.
- Offer detailed reading for advanced learners.
- Use simplified explanations if needed for better comprehension.

Real-Life Applications and Field Activities

- Set up a small terrarium for observation (can use a fish tank or clear container).
- Take a humidity and temperature reading outdoors as examples.

Resources for Further Learning

- Video tutorials on YouTube about crested gecko terrarium setup.
- Guides from reptile care websites like ReptilesMagazine.com.

Day 3: Feeding and Nutrition

Learning Objectives

- The student will identify appropriate food items for crested geckos and explain their feeding habits and dietary needs (SMART: by lesson end).

Materials Needed

- Fresh food pictures or samples (fruits like peaches, insects like crickets)
- Crested gecko commercial diet samples (optional)
- Notebook to record feeding plan

Lesson Introduction

- Begin with: “What do you think a gecko eats? How is that different from what you eat?”
- Discuss omnivorous diets combining insects and fruit.

Instructional Procedures

- **Exploration:** Explore foods suitable for geckos (commercial powders, live insects, fruits).
- **Explanation:** Describe the importance of calcium and vitamins; mention dangers of improper feeding.
- **Application:** Create a weekly feeding schedule that balances commercial diets with treats.
- **Reflection:** Discuss how nutrition affects animal health and behavior.

Assessment and Evaluation

- Review the feeding plan for balance and accuracy.
- Talk through scenarios (e.g., “What if you only fed your gecko fruit?”).

Integration with Other Subjects

- Science: Nutrition and digestion.
- Math: Scheduling and quantities.
- Writing: Create feeding journals.

Differentiation and Personalization

- For hands-on learners, prepare pretend food items to explore.
- For learners needing extra help, provide a checklist of appropriate foods.

Real-Life Applications and Field Activities

- Cook or prepare a fruit snack to relate to the gecko's diet.
- Visit a grocery store or farmer's market to find gecko-friendly fruits.

Resources for Further Learning

- Book: *Reptile Nutrition* by David R. Mader.
 - Websites like TheSprucePets.com with feeding tips.
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Day 4: Caring for Your Pet Gecko: Daily and Weekly Routines

Learning Objectives

- By the end of the lesson, the student will be able to list daily and weekly gecko care tasks and demonstrate how to perform at least two care activities (SMART: by lesson end).

Materials Needed

- Checklist template for gecko care routines
- Cleaning supplies for terrarium (used for demonstration)
- Video or live demonstration resources

Lesson Introduction

- Ask: "What does your pet need daily? Weekly? Why are these routines important?"
- Relate to responsibilities the student may already have (e.g., feeding a pet, cleaning their room).

Instructional Procedures

- **Exploration:** Explore tasks—feeding, spot cleaning, misting, tank cleaning.
- **Explanation:** Discuss signs of a healthy gecko and the importance of hygiene.
- **Application:** Role-play care routines or watch and practice misting terrarium plants.
- **Reflection:** Talk about how routine helps pets live longer and stay healthy.

Assessment and Evaluation

- Have the student demonstrate a task, e.g., misting or cleaning a mock terrarium.
- Review their checklist for completeness and understanding.

Integration with Other Subjects

- Life skills: Responsibility and time management.
 - Science: Animal health and behavior.
 - Writing: Daily journal entries about care activities.
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Differentiation and Personalization

- For kinesthetic learners, hands-on practice is encouraged.
- For learners needing more support, provide visual schedules and reminders.

Real-Life Applications and Field Activities

- Set a daily timer or alarm to remind for pet care tasks.
- Help plan family chore charts including pet care.

Resources for Further Learning

- Pet care videos from reptile experts.
- Guidebooks like *Crested Gecko Care* by J. Moore.

Day 5: Health and Habits: How to Keep Your Crested Gecko Happy

Learning Objectives

- The student will identify common health concerns in crested geckos and describe basic behavioral traits to monitor their pet's wellbeing (SMART: by lesson end).

Materials Needed

- Images or videos showing healthy vs. unhealthy geckos
- Notebook for symptoms list
- Internet access for research

Lesson Introduction

- Prompt: "If your gecko could talk, what might it tell you about how it feels?"
- Discuss how pets communicate through behavior and appearance.

Instructional Procedures

- **Exploration:** Identify behaviors such as hiding, climbing, licking.
- **Explanation:** Cover signs of illness (weight loss, lethargy, shedding problems).
- **Application:** Create a "health checklist" and role-play responses to potential health issues.
- **Reflection:** Brainstorm how to keep the pet happy and healthy based on observations.

Assessment and Evaluation

- Ask the student to explain key health signals.
- Review their checklist and problem-solving ideas.

Integration with Other Subjects

- Science: Animal biology and health.
- Writing: Summary report or diary entry.
- Technology: Use apps or websites to track pet health.

Differentiation and Personalization

- Visual aids for recognizing symptoms.
- More detailed research projects for motivated learners.

Real-Life Applications and Field Activities

- Visit a veterinarian that treats reptiles if possible.
- Family discussion about pet care responsibilities.

Resources for Further Learning

- Veterinarian websites such as The Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians (ARAV).
 - Videos on reptile health signs and care.
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Additional Notes for Parents and Guardians:

Flexibility

- Feel free to pace lessons slower or faster and incorporate breaks.
- Adjust lesson difficulty based on your child's interests and responses.

Parental Involvement

- Engage in discussions and provide support with hands-on tasks.
- Help create a dedicated learning and pet care area.

Learning Environment

- Use a consistent learning space with minimal distractions.
- Keep pet care supplies organized and accessible.

Multi-Age Considerations

- If teaching siblings, assign partner roles or offer differentiated tasks based on age.
- Encourage cooperative learning through shared research or role-play.

Cultural and Personal Relevance

- Customize examples and discussions to reflect your family's experiences and values.
 - Encourage respect for all living creatures and responsibility in pet keeping.
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This lesson plan combines science knowledge with hands-on pet care skills, helping your 13-year-old learn how to responsibly care for a crested gecko and appreciate this fascinating animal. Enjoy your journey in reptile care!