



Lizard lounge

Reptile

Lizards belong to the family of animals called reptiles. Reptiles have scales and dry, water-proof skin. There are 850 reptile species in Australia, which includes lizards, snakes and turtles.

Victorian lizards

Victoria has 87 species of lizard, including monitors (goannas), geckos, skinks, legless lizards and dragons. Australia's largest lizard, the goanna, can grow up to two metres long and is an excellent swimmer. Most of our lizards are found nowhere else in the world and some of them are endangered.

Finding mates

Most lizards are solitary – they like to live alone. The males look for females usually in the spring. Male blue tongues sometime fight for a female.

Baby lizards

Some lizards lay eggs and some lizards, like the blue tongue, give birth to baby lizards. The eggs incubate and hatch inside the blue tongue.

Food

Lizards mainly eat small insects, worms, beetles and garden snails. They will also eat soft fruits, seeds and flowers. Larger lizards will eat frogs, mice and even smaller lizards. They don't chew their food and usually swallow it whole.

Water

Lizards need some water and will often drink droplets on leaves and vegetation or from shallow puddles and ponds.

Shelter

Lizards like to shelter in native grasses, rocks and logs. Native plants, and mulch-covered soil will have more insects for lizards to eat. They also like sunny rocks to warm up on.

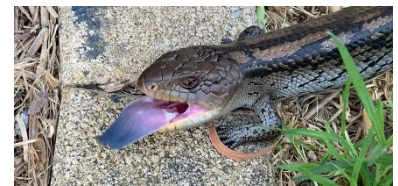
Smelling

Lizards don't sniff the air to smell and find food. They use their tongues to flick scent particles into their mouths where they have special smelling organs.



Blue tongues lizards

Blue tongue lizards are one of the largest skinks in the world. When they are frightened by animals or people they try to look scary by opening their large mouth to show their blue tongue.



Low tummies

Lizards have legs on the side of their bodies so they can lie flat on warm rocks to warm up their bellies. But when they want to walk or run, they first need to use their legs to pick themselves up off the ground.

Solar Heated

Lizards are cold-blooded which means they cannot control their body temperature. On cold mornings they move very slowly and need to lie on warm rocks in the sun to warm themselves up and give them the energy to move around. If they need to cool down, they shelter under plants, below ground or in water. Many lizards are inactive during the winter.

Citizen science

You can be a 'citizen scientist' and record lizards you see at <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/>. You can do this from your own back yard with your family members, or at school with your teacher or other students.

