

Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIRST GRADE

Title of Lesson: Exploring Reptiles

Theme: Life Science

Unit Number: 6 **Unit Title:** Animal Plants

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S1CS4

S1L1

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Shelter/Habitat

& other basic survival needs

Learning Activity (description in steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters):

Students will get to view turtle shells, snake skins, lizards in jars, and skulls while learning about the habitat of each. This is a very fun lesson for the kids!

Details:

The first part of the lesson was review from days before. As a class we discussed the different types of species we had learned about: mammals, fish, birds, and insects. Then I introduced a new species to them, reptiles. Before opening the science box, I went through two little books that were included. They focused on the types of reptiles we were about to see, showing the stages of each from birth to adulthood. I asked them many questions as we were reading to make sure they were paying attention. When we were done with the books, I made it clear what my expectations were and instructed them to be gentle when handling the objects in the box. I then pulled off the lid, and I wish you could have seen their faces. Turtle shells, snake skins, and jars full of lizards and baby alligators filled the box. I pulled each one out one by one and made me tell them how the animal moves, where does it live, etc. After going through the whole box, I instructed them to return to their seats when I called their name and pull out their science journals. They were to pick their favorite reptile we just learned about, draw it, and write two sentences about it.

Materials Needed (type and quantity):

Reptiles Science Box from the Natural History Museum

Books included inside box

Notes and Tips (general changes, alternative methods, cautions):

Some of my students were scared of the lizards, especially the girls. I solved this by not passing around the jars. My teacher walked around with them and only showed them to those who wanted to see.

Other items in the box were too fragile to pass around. So she walked around with those as well while I continued to talk about them.

Sources/References:

- 1) [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 2) [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 3) [Click here to enter text.](#)