

Reptiles: What's Cold-Blooded?

Reptiles are cold-blooded, or ectothermic. This means that they cannot produce their own heat.

Mammals, like us, are warm-blooded, or endothermic. We maintain a constant body temperature.

So how do reptiles stay warm in cooler temperatures? Do this simple experiment to find out!



What you need:

- Desk lamp
- Two reptile silhouette cut-outs (see next page)
- Scissors
- Outdoor Thermometer (optional)

What to do:

1. Print the lizard templates on the next page.
2. Cut the page in half so you have two silhouettes.
3. Turn on the desk lamp. Have your child put one silhouette under the desk lamp.
4. Put the second silhouette a few feet away, in a dark or shady corner.
5. After five minutes, remove the silhouettes from their locations.
6. Have your child feel both silhouettes with the backs of their hands. Which one is warmer? Older children can use a thermometer to measure the temperature difference under the light and in the shady space.
7. **Ask:** How do reptiles stay warm outside? Have you ever seen a turtle sitting on a log by a pond? Or a snake curled up on top of a rock on a sunny day?



Tune in to Como Live on Facebook at 1:30pm to meet one of our reptile ambassador animals, the Argentine black and white tegu!



