

A **River Otter** is a mammal that lives in any water habitat such as ponds, marshes, lakes, rivers, in cold, warm or even high elevation areas as long as the habitat provides adequate food. The river otters dens are along the water in abandoned burrows or empty hollows. This mammal has thick, protective fur to help them keep warm while swimming in cold waters. They have short legs, webbed feet, and a long, narrow body and flattened head for streamlined movement in the water. They have long whiskers which they use to detect prey in the dark cloudy water and clawed feet for grasping onto its prey. The fur on much of its body is dark brown, and light brown on the belly and face. An interesting fact about this mammal is that they have 57,800 hairs per square centimeter with the length of the hair measuring at 23.8 mm.

RIVER Otter



A **Long-tailed Weasel** is a mammal that lives in a wide-variety of habitats including woodlands, thickets, open areas and farmlands. It usually lives near a water source. This mammal has a small head with long whiskers, a long body and neck and short legs. Their tail has a black tip. The long-tailed weasel has brown fur on the upper part of its body and white to yellow fur on its undersides. The long-tailed weasel mates in the summer but the eggs begin to develop until 27 days before the babies are born. This weasel can be found in most of the United States, except for parts of southeast California and Nevada and most of Arizona. In Canada, it can be found in British Columbia, Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan. An interesting facts about this animal is that when its hungry, it has no conscience. It may kill and eat its own siblings or offspring if no other food is available. Another interesting fact about this animal is that if cornered, it may turn wildly vicious and aggressive and attack.

LONG-tailed WEASEL



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A **Black-tailed Jackrabbit** is a mammal that lives in meadows, prairies, desert scrubland and farmlands. Black-tailed jackrabbits are common in American deserts, scrublands, and other open spaces, including farms. This mammal has long ears with black tips and very long front and rear legs. It can grow up to 18-24 inches long and weigh four to eight pounds. It has brown fur and a black stripe that runs down its back. The black-tailed jackrabbit mates year-round. Males and females will leap after and chase each other during mating season and when the babies are born, they are only nursed for three to four days and are independent by the time they are a month old. The black-tailed jackrabbit rests during the day and eats in the afternoon and the night. In the summer it eats a variety of green plants and in the winter it eats dried and woody plants. An interesting fact about the black-tailed jackrabbit is that it is not really a rabbit, it's a hare. This is because its young are born with fur and with their eyes already open.

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BLACK- tailed JACK- Rabbit



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A **California King Snake** is a reptile that lives in any desert, woodland and grassland areas. The California King Snake ranges from Oregon to southern Utah, Nevada, Arizona, California and northern Baja. It is dark brown or black with whitish-yellow bands. The maximum size for the California King Snake is more than 6 feet in length, but the average size is 3 to 4 feet. California King Snakes are not a bulky or heavy snakes, so they seem smaller than they actually are. In the wild these snakes will eat just about any animal or bird small enough to be overpowered and swallowed whole, including rattlesnakes. In captivity they are fed on rodents, which are usually mice. The California King Snake is one of the most commonly kept snake pets because they are easy to care for. Because it lives in so many habitats and conditions, it is a good indicator that it will adapt easily to a life in captivity. An interesting fact about this reptile is that it received its name because it often eats other snakes. It is famous for eating Rattlesnakes.

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CALIFORNIA KING SNAKE

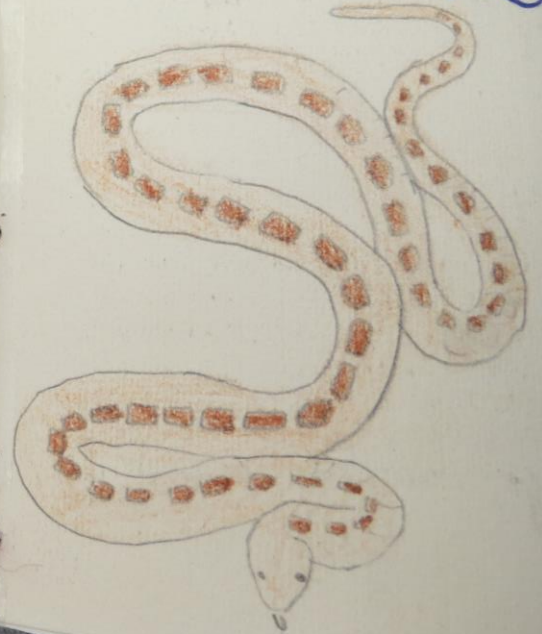


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A **Gopher Snake** is a reptile that lives in a wide variety of habitats including desert flats, coastal dunes and coniferous forests, but preferring grasslands and open brush areas. The Gopher Snake is yellowish brown, with dark, diamond-shaped markings. Gopher snakes range in color from cream-yellow to green-gray to tan, with large black, brown or reddish blotches on their back and smaller ones along their sides. The adult Gopher snakes hunt small rodents, young rabbits, lizards, birds and occasionally other snakes, usually by their sense of smell. Then their prey is killed by constriction and suffocation. An interesting fact about this reptile is that Gopher snakes play important role in the control of number of rodents in the wild. Another interesting facts is that Gopher snakes are non-venomous snakes. They are constrictors, meaning the snake will kill by coiling around its prey and by depriving them of air. Gopher snakes will wrap the body around the prey and squeeze it to death.

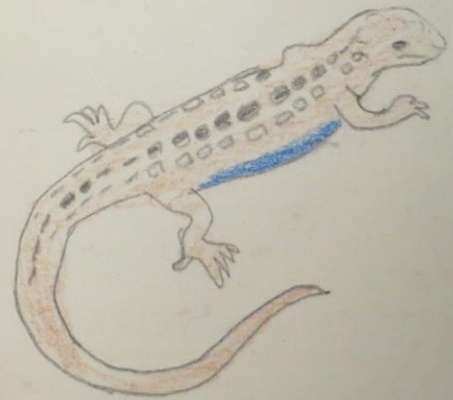
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GOPHER SNAKE



26 A **Western Fence Lizard** is a reptile that are usually found in a wide variety of open, sunny habitats, including woodlands, grasslands, scrub, chaparral, forests, along waterways, suburban dwellings, where there are suitable basking and perching sites, including fences, walls, woodpiles, piles of rocks and rocky outcrops, dead and downed trees, wood rat nests, road berms, and open trail edges. They can however also be found in open forested areas on rocks, and logs. These animals are brown to black in color and have black stripes on their backs, but most noticeable characteristics of the Western Fence Lizard is their blue bellies. They also have blue patches on their throats and spiny scales on their backs and limbs. Males have blue markings on the sides of the belly edged in black, two blue patches on the throat, often connected with a light band, enlarged postanal, enlarged femoral pores, and a swollen tail base. Females have faint or absent blue markings on the belly, no blue or green color on the upper surfaces, and dark bars or crescents on the back. An interesting fact about this reptile is that they earned their name by warming under the sun on fence post, rocks, and paths. Another interesting fact about this lizard is that they used to be killed for their blood because it serves medical purposes.

26 WESTERN
FENCE
LIZARD

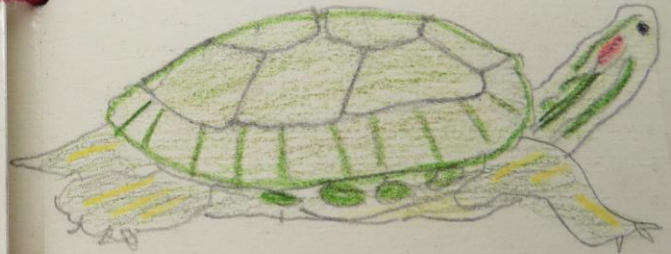


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A **Red-eared Slider** is a reptile that lives in permanent ponds and floodplain swamps, as well as slow-moving rivers. The native habitat of the red-eared slider is from New Mexico north to Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and West Virginia, then south through Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, all the way to northern Mexico. They are often seen in slow-moving streams, creeks, lakes, ponds and marshes with a Red-eared sliders are omnivores. In the wild, they feed on aquatic vegetation, small fish and decaying material such as dead fish and frogs, etc. Pet red-eared sliders will feed on just about anything you give them. This reptiles has webbed feet and strong claws. It is green with bright yellow stripes and has a patch of red behind each eye. Some turtles may also have a small patch of red on top of their heads. An interesting fact about this reptile is that the sex of the Red-eared Slider is determined by the temperature during development. Another interesting fact about this turtle is that pond sliders communicate with touch and vibrations.

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Red-eared Slider



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A **American Bullfrog** is a reptile that lives in lakes, ponds, rivers, or bogs. Prefers still, shallow waters, such as the edges of lakes and ponds or sluggish portions of streams and rivers. The bullfrog's natural range extends from Nova Scotia to central Florida, from the Atlantic coast to Wisconsin, and across the Great Plains to the Rockies. Warm, calm, shallow waters are their favorite places. These bullfrogs are typically green or gray-brown with brown spots and have easily identifiable circular eardrums, or tympanum on either side of their heads. Their bellies range from white to yellow and are sometimes marked with black spots or patterns. This frog is the largest North American frog, weighing up to one pound and measuring up to eight inches. Bullfrogs will eat almost any animal they can capture and swallow, including worms, insects, crayfish, fish, other frogs, snakes, small turtles, small mammals and even birds. An interesting fact about this reptile is that they are named that way because males produce cow-like mooring. Another interesting fact is that a female bullfrog are larger than male bullfrogs.

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AMERICAN BULLFROG

