

Amazing Design: Creeping Things (Grades 3-5)

On Day 6 of Creation Week, God said: “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and **creeping things** and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.” Genesis 1:24 (ESV)

Although “creeping things” includes a lot of different creatures, during this session we are going to take a closer look at some amazing reptiles. Let’s get started!

Is there any evidence that God created reptiles?

As we have discussed in our previous lessons, when we see something complicated that shows design and purpose, we know that someone really smart made it. Do reptiles show design? Let’s take a closer look.

Fun Facts about Basilisks

- They are excellent climbers and swimmers.
- They can be found across South and Central America in Colombia, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Panama, Venezuela, Mexico, Honduras, and Costa Rica.
- They feed on insects, flowers, berries, eggs, fish, small birds and snakes.
- They can hold their breath under water for up to 30 minutes.
- Basilisks are also called the “Jesus Lizard” because they can literally run across water! This helps them hunt and escape from predators.



It is important to note that the Basilisk was **designed** to run across the surface of water. Basilisks are lightweight and fast. Their powerful legs and feet displace enough water to keep them from sinking and their tails provide a counterbalance while running. All of these features have been designed to work together as a system.

Activity: if you have access to a lake, pond or a river, try skipping stones across the water. Try different shapes and sizes and count the number of skips. Which stones seem to work the best? Does the speed that you throw the stones matter? Write down your observations and talk about your results.

Please note: water can be dangerous so be sure to do this activity only with your parent or guardian!

Fun Facts about Geckos

- There are around 1,500 species of geckos.
- They typically eat fruits, insects and flower nectar.
- Most geckos are nocturnal (active at night).
- The smallest known gecko is the Jaragua sphaero. They could literally coil up on a quarter!
- Geckos store fat in their tails as a food source.
- Gecko tails are designed to detach to prevent being captured by predators! The good news is that their tails will grow back.



The Jaragua sphaero is the smallest known gecko in the world

Perhaps the most amazing thing about geckos is their ability to cling to almost any surface. Geckos can climb on walls, walk upside down on ceilings and even cling to glass!

How do they do this? For years scientists were unable to figure it out until they used powerful microscopes to take a closer look at their feet. The toes of the gecko are covered with literally thousands of hair-like structures called **setae** (pronounced "See-Tay"). The atoms of the setae are magnetically attracted (temporarily) to the atoms of surfaces through what is called van der Waal forces. You will probably learn more about this when you take chemistry in high school.

Finally, the geckos' curved toes enable them to easily attach and detach their feet from the surface they are walking on. What an amazing design!



The toes of the gecko are covered with literally thousands of hair-like structures called setae.

Fun Facts about Chameleons

- There are around 150 species of chameleons.
- The eyes of the chameleon can rotate independently. This enables them to look in two different directions at the same time!
- Chameleons are well known for their ability to change colors. However, contrary to popular belief, they do not change colors to blend into their surroundings. They change colors based upon temperature, when they become agitated or are trying to attract a mate.
- Chameleons can project their tongues up to 1.5 times their body length in less than half a second!
- The tongue of the chameleon has been compared to highly advanced catapults. All of the different parts have to work together in order for the chameleon to catch its prey.



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Chameleons can project their tongues up to 1.5 times their body length in less than half a second!

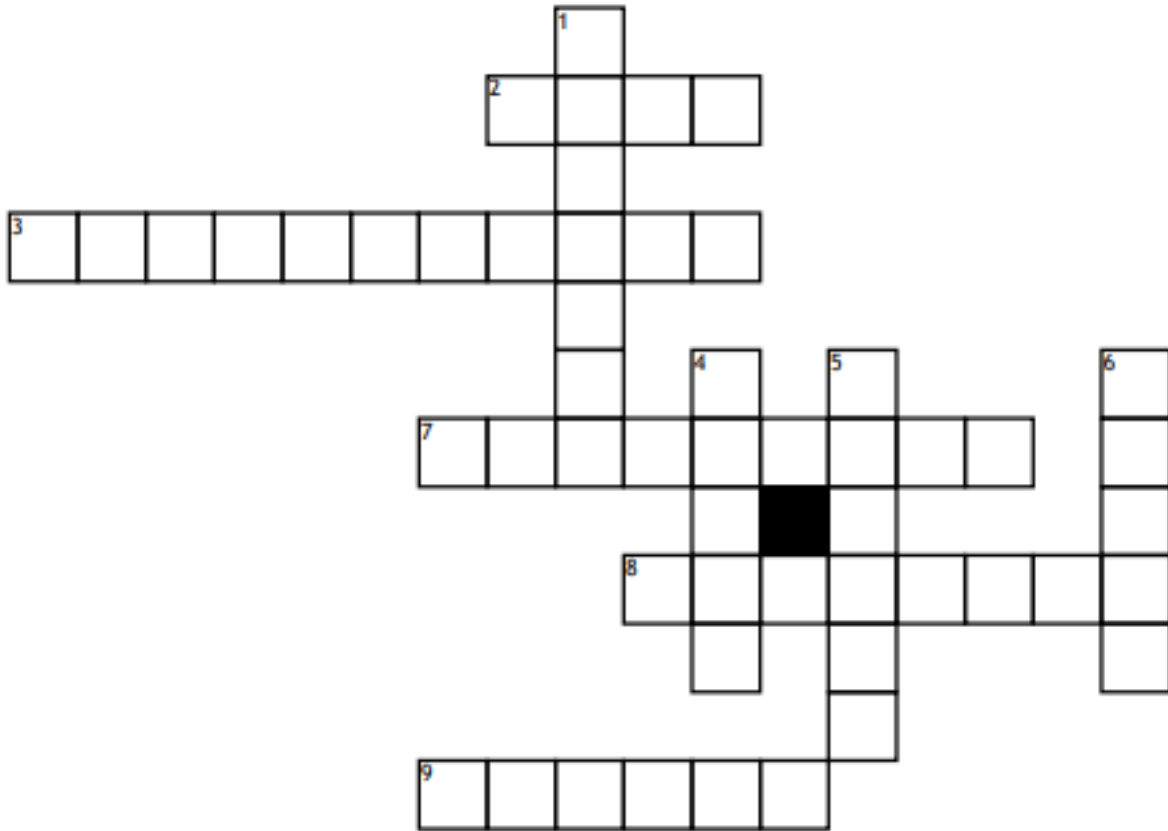
Takeaways

- When we see something complicated, we know that someone really smart made it.
- The next time you go outside, stop for a moment and take a look around you. God has created so many amazing creatures! The Bible says that when we look at these creatures, we should know that God is real (Romans 1:20) and thank Him.
- Sadly, God's creation is not the same as He made it. At first all of the animals ate green plants for food (Genesis 1:29-30). All of that changed when Adam and Eve rebelled against God (Genesis chapter 3). That is when pain, death and suffering came into our world (Romans 5:12) and is the reason why some animals now kill and eat one another.
- When Jesus comes back some day, He promised to restore His creation (Revelation 21:5). People and animals will once again live in peace (Isaiah 11:6-8). When you feel sad, please try to remember that God wins in the end.



“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.” Exodus 20:11

Activity: complete the crossword puzzle below.



Across

- 2. Geckos store fat in this part of their bodies
- 3. Another name for basilisks
- 7. Uses its catapult-like tongue to catch its food
- 8. This lizard can run across the surface of water
- 9. Basilisks can hold their breath underwater for _____ minutes

Down

- 1. The smallest known gecko is the _____ sphaero
- 4. Hair-like structures that cover the toes of the gecko
- 5. Evidence that God created reptiles
- 6. This reptile has feet that can stick to almost any solid surface