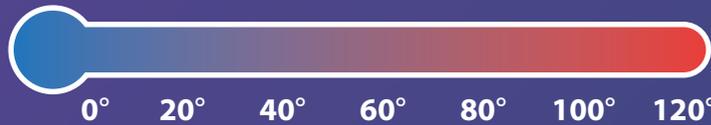


COLD BLOOD

Unlike you, herps are cold-blooded which means that they can't maintain their own body temperature. Instead, they regulate their body temperature by basking in the sun or on warm surfaces. If they get too cold they can become slow or inactive, but if they get too hot, they will need to find shade or cool water.

What is the temperature today?

make a line on the thermometer



Do you think reptiles and amphibians will be active today?

YES

NO

Do you see any herps...

warming up?

cooling off?



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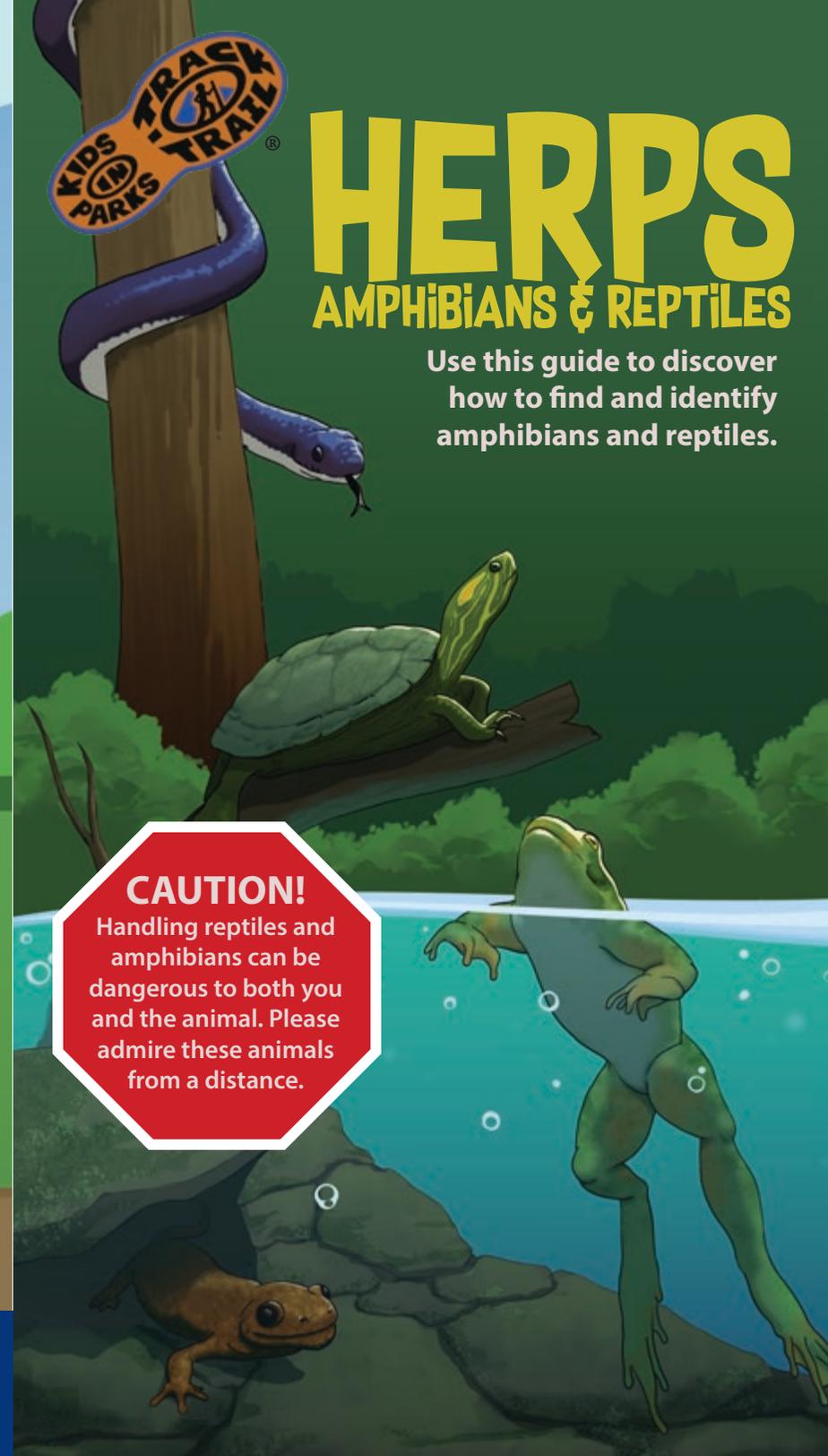
HERPS

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

Use this guide to discover how to find and identify amphibians and reptiles.

CAUTION!

Handling reptiles and amphibians can be dangerous to both you and the animal. Please admire these animals from a distance.



HERPE-WHAT-NOW?

Herpetology is the study of *ectothermic* (cold-blooded) reptiles and amphibians. This includes creatures like frogs, snakes, lizards, and salamanders. But how do we tell the difference?

Does the animal have...

Scales

No Scales

SCALES OR SKIN?

We can use a simple tool called a *dichotomous key* to help us figure out what kind of animal we are looking at. It asks questions with two possible answers. Choose the option that best describes what you are looking at until you narrow it down to a specific animal.

*exceptions are common in the animal kingdom.

REPTILES

Legs

No Legs



Shell

No Shell



Large

Small



Snakes are limbless reptiles that can be found in water, on the ground, or in trees.

*it could also be a less common *legless lizard*

Turtles are reptiles with a protective shell. Some species live on land while others live in water.

Alligators are large reptiles that spend most of their time in water. They have thick, powerful tails and large mouths filled with teeth.

Lizards are smaller reptiles with long slender bodies and a tail. They come in a wide variety of colors and patterns.

AMPHIBIANS

Tadpoles are the larval stage of a frog or toad that live in water. They have no legs and a long tail.



No Legs

Legs

No Tail

Tail



Bumpy



Smooth



Salmanders and Newts are amphibians with long slender bodies and short legs. They can be found in or out of water.

Toads are small amphibians with dry, bumpy skin. They can be found far from water. Their legs are shorter than frogs.

Frogs are amphibians with smooth, moist skin. They dry out quickly, so they tend to stay in or near water. Long, powerful legs help them leap and swim.