

# Reptiles at St. Anne's Wetland

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School or Agency: St. Anne Wetland Education Outreach Project

Grade Level(s): 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>

Science Topic: reptiles, conservation, habitat

## Summary

This lesson plan will introduce students to St. Anne's wildlife and habitat. They will identify and examine the reptiles that live in this ecosystem. They are also asked to identify problems due to human interference and asked how they can help.

## Core Content

NS.K-4.1: Science as Inquiry

NS.K-4.3: Life Science

## Objectives

- 1) Students will be able to connect with animals and their habitats
- 2) Students will learn how to identify reptiles

## Materials

- Clipboards
- Reptile checklist (copy below)
- Kentucky Reptile Field Guide
- Pens/pencils
- Rulers

## Procedures

- 1) Discuss the different types of reptiles found in Kentucky. (explain to children that we do not pick up snakes, some are venomous so for safety we do not handle them)
- 2) Talk about how reptiles are ectothermic (not cold-blooded) and that they regulate their body temperature by sun-bathing or going into the shade.
- 3) Hand out checklist (copy below) and supplies.

- 4) Have students go into field, preferably in small groups, and look for suitable reptile habitats, take notes of what they see (kind of reptile, where it was found, if no reptiles seen why do they think that is?)

#### Assessment Techniques:

- 1) Hand back checklists. Ask students if they thought there was good habitats for reptiles. Why/why not?
- 2) Ask students what they saw, if they saw any amphibians or reptiles, etc. Lead into discussion about human impacts on reptile habitat and populations. (filling wetlands, roads, agriculture, pollutants, deforestation)
- 3) Make a personal plan of what we can do to help out.

#### Resources:

Common Reptiles of Kentucky.

[http://campus.murraystate.edu/academic/faculty/howard.whiteman/field/reptiles/reptilegallery/common\\_reptiles\\_of\\_kentucky.htm](http://campus.murraystate.edu/academic/faculty/howard.whiteman/field/reptiles/reptilegallery/common_reptiles_of_kentucky.htm)

## Reptile Habitat Checklist

\_\_\_\_\_ Air temperature \_\_\_\_\_ Time of day

\_\_\_\_\_ Large rocks

What are these rocks used for? \_\_\_\_\_

What reptiles would you find there? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Talus slopes or rocks with large fissures

What are these used for? \_\_\_\_\_

What reptiles would you find there? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Submerged logs (in water)

What are these logs used for? \_\_\_\_\_

What reptiles would you find there? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Water sites

What is the water needed for? \_\_\_\_\_

What reptiles would you find there? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Meadows or sunny grassy fields

What are these areas used for? \_\_\_\_\_

What reptiles would you find there? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Downed wood (on the ground)

What is this wood used for? \_\_\_\_\_

What reptiles would you find there? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Shrubbery

What are shrubs used for? \_\_\_\_\_

What reptiles would you find there? \_\_\_\_\_