

“Wonderful Reptiles”

An integrated Poetry and Science Activity appropriate for 3rd-5th Graders

Illinois State Learning Standards:

State Goal 3: Write to communicate for a variety of purposes.

Why this Goal is Important: The ability to write clearly is essential to any person’s effective communications. Students with high-level writing skills can produce documents that show planning and organization and effectively convey the intended message and meaning. Clear writing is critical to employment and production in today’s world. Individuals must be capable of writing for a variety of audiences in differing styles, including standard rhetoric themes, business letters and reports, financial proposals and technical and professional communications. Students should be able to use word processors and computers to enhance communications. Students should be able to use work processors and computers to enhance their writing proficiency and improve their career opportunities.

3C2a : Write for a variety of purposes and for specified audiences in a variety of forms including narrative (ex: fiction, autobiography), expository (es: reports, essays) and persuasive writings (ex: editorials, advertisements).

3B2b: Establish central idea, organization, elaboration and unity in relation to purpose and audience.

State Goal 12: Understand the fundamental concepts, principals and interconnections of the life, physical and earth/space sciences.

Why this Goal is Important: This goal is comprised of key concepts and principals in the life, physical and earth/space sciences that have considerable explanatory and predictive power for scientists and non-scientists alike. These ideas have been thoroughly studied and have stood the test of time. Knowing and being able to apply these concepts, principals and processes help students understand what they observe in nature and through scientific experimentation. A working knowledge of these concepts and principles allows students to relate new subject matter to material previously learned and to create deeper and more meaningful levels of understanding.

12B2a: Describe relationships among various organisms in their environments (ex: predator/prey, parasite/host, food chains and food webs).

12B2b: Identify physical features of plants and animals that help them live in different environments (ex: specialized teeth for eating certain foods, thorns for protection, insulation for cold temperature).

Materials needed before Zoo visit: notebooks, pens or pencils to take notes.

*Students will need to know how to write and create a Haiku Poem and a Name Poem. Examples are on “Wonderful Reptiles” examples page.