

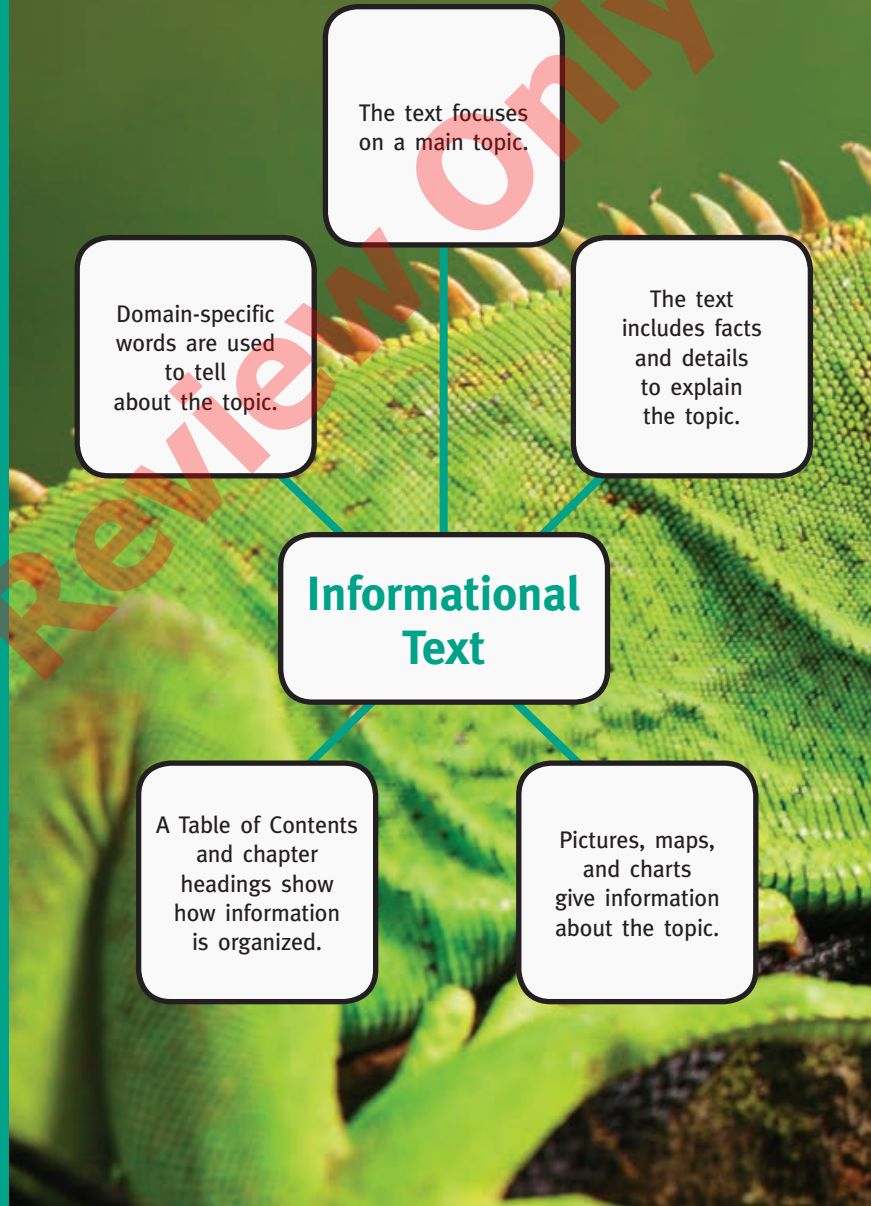
Reptiles



Level **H/13**
Lexile® **480L**

Informational Text

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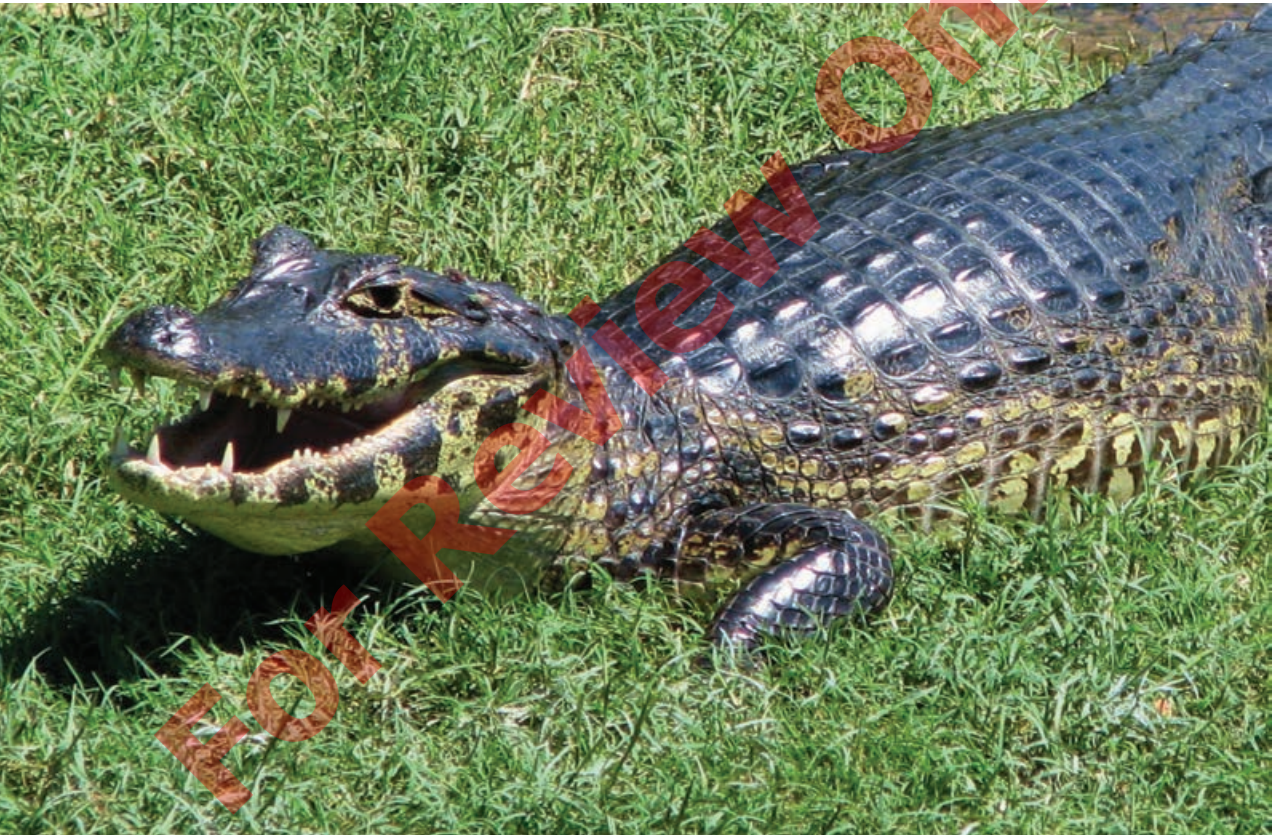
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Reptiles

Reptiles are a type of animal.



▲ This alligator is a reptile.

There are many different types of reptiles. In fact, there are more than 8,000 species of reptiles on the planet.



▲ snake



▲ turtle



▲ lizard



▲ crocodile

Reptiles are vertebrates. Animals that are vertebrates have backbones. Their backbones go from the head to the tip of the tail.



▲ This is a skeleton of a crocodile.

A reptile is a cold-blooded animal.
This means a reptile's body temperature
changes according to the temperature
outside.



▲ A reptile's body temperature changes.

A reptile's body is covered with scales.
The scales protect its body.



▲ These are the smooth scales of a tree snake.

Scales can be hard or soft. Scales come in all different shapes and sizes. Some are big and some are small. Some are bumpy and some are smooth.



▲ These are the bumpy scales of an alligator.

Tortoises are reptiles. They have large and hard protective shells. Some tortoises can live for more than 150 years.



▲ The large tortoise shell protects them from injury.

The tortoise can pull its head and limbs into its shell for protection. Turtles can do this, too!



▲ A turtle seeks protection from predators.