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Amazing Animals
Fact sheets

Lizards

There are over 3000 lizard species distributed throughout the world, and because they are reptiles the majority are found in warmer climates. They range in sizes from 6cm up to 3m long! Lizards have scaly skin that is shed throughout the year, often in irregular patches.
Some members of the lizard family are carnivorous (meat only), however there are others that are herbivorous (plants only) or omnivorous (plants and meat).

Eastern Water Dragon

The Eastern Water Dragon is a medium to large sized lizard, with some specimens growing up to 80cm in length including their long tail. Eastern Water Dragons have large heads, with a row of spines beginning on the head and leading down along their back.

Habitat

Eastern Water Dragons are semi-aquatic lizards that are found along the east coast of Australia. They are normally found around creeks, rivers or lakes. The Lizards can remain submerged for up to 30 minutes and rise to the surface where they are able to breathe, while checking the area for danger before emerging back onto land.

Diet

Eastern Water Dragons are active during both the day and night time. During this period of activity they hunt for insects, frogs, yabbies, water insects, fruit and berries. Eastern Water Dragons are active all year, but in the cooler parts of their range, they will experience a dormancy period. The dragons may then dig a small hole under a log or rock, they then will seal the entrance, and emerge in the warmer months.

Breeding

Eastern Water Dragons breeding season is during spring. Mating occurs near waterways, where the males defend their territories. The females lay eggs away from the river in nests. Their nests are usually in moist soil, within rotting vegetation in November to December. Female dragons can lay between 10-20 eggs. Young hatching in January and February.

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