



Green Iguana

Iguana iguana



Physical Characteristics.

I am bright green as a hatchling but as I mature my color becomes somewhat faded and blotchy. I am exothermic. My body temperature is mainly dependent on the environmental temperature around me. I have thick rough skin with a set of pointed scales along my back. I have long fingers and claws to help me climb and grasp.

Habitat / Climate

Rainforest Tropical Canopy

Where am I from?

I am native to South America, Central America and even into Mexico. I have been introduced to some Pacific islands and tropical areas such as the Florida Keys. I live in rainforests and the surrounding areas, often near river banks. I like to climb to the top of the tree canopy 40 to 50 feet off the ground to bask in the sun and view my territory. I am arboreal.

RANGE MAP



Other family members:

Chameleon
Chuckwalla
Desert Iguana
Horned Lizard

Who are my relatives?

I am a reptile from the family Iguanidae. We are a large diverse family including many species not called Iguanas. Most North American Lizards belong to this family.



Breeding Potential

Clutch size? 20-72 eggs
Incubation time? 90 -120 days
Number of offspring per year? 3-10 survive to adulthood

How am I born?

When my mother is ready to lay her eggs, 65 days after mating, she will go to the ground and dig a shallow burrow and lay 20 to 72 eggs over a period of several days. She then covers them with leaves and climbs back up in the trees. The eggs need to have temperature of 90-120 degrees during the 8 to 10 weeks of incubation for them to hatch. When we 6" hatchlings emerge from our eggs we are bright green. We scatter, climbing into trees. The yolk we absorbed before we hatched will sustain us the first week of two of our life.

Breeding Season

F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E	A	P	A	U	U	A	E	S	O	E
B	R	Y	N	L	G	P	T	V	C	

Breed in the dry season once a year..

How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live?

Only 3 - 10 of us will survive into adulthood. We mature at 3-5 years old and can reach a length of 7 feet long. We may weigh 10 - 15 pounds. In captivity we can live 20 years or more but in the wild we live about 8 years.

Names for:

Adult male:
Adult female:
Young: Hatchling

What kind of family life do I have?

I am *precocial*. My mother does not have anything to do with me after I am born. We tend to live alone but may be seen basking in the sun in groups. Usually the only disputes occur over food. During mating season males become territorial but injuries are rare

What do I eat and when do I eat?

I am *omnivorous* and *diurnal*. I mostly eat vegetation but when I am young I need a high protein diet to grow quickly. I eat small animal, eggs, insects and any fruits and bright colored flowers that are available. One of my favorites is the Hibiscus flower and leaves.

Who are my predators?

Men catch me for pets and food. Other predators are birds of prey, foxes, rats, weasels, snakes and other carnivores. My long tail is sharp and can whip my predators if they get too close. I can fall 40-50 ft. into water and swim away to escape.



What is the history of my relationship to man?

I have been eaten by man, used for pet food, and kept for a pet. When we are captured from the wild about 90% of us die within the first year of captivity. Work is going on now to educate people who want to eat Iguanas on how to raise them in captivity instead of hunting wild ones. Laws have been passed to protect us but they are not well enforced

