

## Nature 2 U (On-Site Program) – Reptiles: Nature Exploration

**Topics covered:** Get up close and personal with cold-blooded critters. Meet a local snake and turtle. Explore characteristics of these scaly skinned animals and learn about their many unique adaptations.

**Ages:** PK – 8<sup>th</sup>

**Purchase Details:** \$6 per student

Programs can be reserved by phone: 901-636-2221

Tuesday - Friday, sessions by appointment

### Objectives:

1. Distinguish reptiles from other animal groups.
2. Learn about reptile anatomy and how to tell if a snake is venomous.
3. Meet live animals.

**Vocabulary:** adjusted for specific grade levels

scutes

scales

venomous

carapace

plastron

vertebrate

ectotherm

brumate

cloaca

herpetologist

Jacobson's organ

nictitating membrane

bask

camouflage

counter shading

### Fun Facts:

- Turtle shells are made of bone and are a part of the turtle's spine. Their lungs are attached to the top of their shell (the carapace).
- Snakes shed their skin from nose to tail in one complete piece.
- You can tell the difference between male and female Eastern box turtles by the color of their eyes.
- Reptiles first appear in the fossil record nearly 320 million years ago.

**Web Resources:**

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency – [www.tn.gov/twra.html](http://www.tn.gov/twra.html)

Tennessee Wildlife Federation – [www.tnwf.org](http://www.tnwf.org)

Exhibit Information at Lichterman Nature Center – [www.memphismuseums.org/lichterman-nature-center/](http://www.memphismuseums.org/lichterman-nature-center/)

Tennessee Herpetological Society – <https://www.tnherpsociety.org/>

**Where:** Lichterman Nature Center Amphitheater or classrooms

**When:** Year-round, Tuesday – Friday, sessions by appointment

- **Standards:**
  - **(Grade Level)** PK - 8
- **Tennessee: (Life Science)**
  - LS (1-4), ETS2
- **Mississippi: (Life Science)**
  - L (1-4), E (9-10)
- **Arkansas**
  - LS 1, 2, 3, 4