SCOUTMASTER BUCKY

Reptile and Amphibian Study Merit Badge Workbook

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Scouts participating in a Scoutmaster Bucky merit badge opportunity, whether online or in person, should consider using the Reptile and Amphibian Study merit badge pamphlet for discovery and knowledge, along with the class preparation pages for clarifications, insights, and expectations. These resources are available here:

https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/reptile-and-amphibian-study/

REQUIREMENT 8a REQUIRES COUNSELOR APPROVAL.

SCOUTS MUST NOT USE VENOMOUS REPTILES IN FULFILLING REQUIREMENT 8(A). WHEN YOU DECIDE THAT KEEPING YOUR SPECIMEN IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE OR DESIRED, BE SURE TO FIND ANOTHER APPROPRIATE HOME FOR IT OR RETURN IT TO THE WILD AT THE LOCATION OF CAPTURE. CHECK WITH YOUR COUNSELOR FOR THOSE INSTANCES WHERE THE RETURN OF THESE SPECIMENS WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE.

UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973, SOME PLANTS AND ANIMALS ARE, OR MAY BE, PROTECTED BY FEDERAL LAW. THE SAME ONES AND/OR OTHERS MAY BE PROTECTED BY STATE LAW. BE SURE THAT YOU DO NOT COLLECT PROTECTED SPECIES.

YOUR STATE MAY REQUIRE THAT YOU PURCHASE AND CARRY A LICENSE TO COLLECT CERTAIN SPECIES. CHECK WITH THE WILDLIFE AND FISH AND GAME OFFICIALS IN YOUR STATE REGARDING SPECIES REGULATIONS BEFORE YOU BEGIN TO COLLECT.

REQUIREMENT 1:	Describe the identifying characteristics of six species of reptiles and four species of amphibians found in the United States. For any four of these, make sketches from your own observations or take photographs. Show markings, color patterns, or other characteristics that are important in the identification of each of the four species. Discuss the habits and habitats of all 10 species.

REPTILE SPECIES #1:

Name:

Characteristics:

REPTILE SPECIES #2:
Name:
Characteristics:
REPTILE SPECIES #3:
Name:
Characteristics:
REPTILE SPECIES #4:
Name:
Characteristics:

REPTILE SPECIES #5:
Name:
Characteristics:
REPTILE SPECIES #6:
Name:
Characteristics:
AMPHIBIAN SPECIES #1:
Name:
Characteristics:

AMPHIBIAN SPECIES #2:
Name:
Characteristics:
AMPHIBIAN SPECIES #3:
Name:
Characteristics:
AMPHIBIAN SPECIES #4:
Name:
Characteristics:

REQUIREMENT 2:	Discuss with your counselor the approximate number of species and general geographic distribution of reptiles and amphibians in the United States.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 2:	Prepare a list of the most common species found in your local area or state.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3a:	Describe the main differences between amphibians and reptiles.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3b:	Describe the main differences between alligators and crocodiles.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3c:	Describe the main differences between toads and frogs.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3d:	Describe the main differences between snakes and lizards.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 4:	Explain how reptiles and amphibians are an important component of the natural environment.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 4:	List four species that are officially protected by the federal government or by the state you live in, and tell why each is protected.

FEDERAL / STATE PROTECTED SPECIES #1:

Species:

Why this Species is Protected:

FEDERAL / STATE PROTECTED SPECIES #2:
Species:
Why this Species is Protected:
FEDERAL / STATE PROTECTED SPECIES #3:
Species:
Why this Species is Protected:
FEDERAL / STATE PROTECTED SPECIES #4:
Species:
Why this Species is Protected:

REQUIREMENT 4:	List three species of reptiles found in your local area that are not protected. Discuss the food habits of these species
UNPROTECTED REPTILE SPECIES #1:	
Species:	
This Species Food Habits:	
UNPROTECTED REPTILE SPECIES #2:	
Species:	
This Species Food Habits:	
UNPROTECTED REPTILE SPECIES #3:	
Species:	
This Species Food Habits:	

REQUIREMENT 4:	List three species of amphibians found in your local area that are not protected. Discuss the food habits of these species

UNPROTECTED AMPHIBIAN SPECIES #1:

Species:

This Species Food Habits:

UNPROTECTED AMPHIBIAN SPECIES #2:

Species:

This Species Food Habits:

UNPROTECTED AMPHIBIAN SPECIES #3:

Species:

This Species Food Habits:

REQUIREMENT 5:	Compare how reptiles reproduce to how amphibians reproduce.

Reptile Reproduction:

Amphibian Reproduction:

REQUIREMENT 6:	From observation, describe how snakes move forward.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 6:	Describe the functions of the muscles, ribs, and belly plates.
Muscles:	
Ribs:	
Belly Plates:	
REQUIREMENT 7:	Describe in detail six venomous snakes and the one venomous lizard found in the United States. Describe their habits and geographic range.
U.S. VENOMOUS SNAKE #1:	
Name:	
Habits:	
Geographic Range:	

U.S. VENOMOUS SNAKE #2:
Name:
Habits:
Geographic Range:
U.S. VENOMOUS SNAKE #3:
Name:
Habits:
Geographic Range:

U.S. VENOMOUS SNAKE #4:
Name:
Habits:
Geographic Range:
U.S. VENOMOUS SNAKE #5:
Name:
Habits:
Geographic Range:

U.S. VENOMOUS SNAKE #6:
Name:
Habits:
Geographic Range:
U.S. VENOMOUS LIZARD #1:
Name:
Habits:
Geographic Range:

REQUIREMENT 7:	Tell what you should do in case of a bite by a venomous species.

Notes:

DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (8A or 8B) FOR REQUIREMENT 8

REQUIREMENT 8a:	Take custody of one or more reptiles or amphibians in a manner approved by your counselor. Maintain one or more reptiles or amphibians for at least a month. Record food accepted, eating methods, changes in coloration, shedding of skins, and general habits; or keep the eggs of a reptile from the time of laying until hatching; or keep the eggs of an amphibian from the time of laying until their transformation into tadpoles (frogs) or larvae (salamanders). Whichever you chose, keep records of and report to your counselor how you cared for your animal/eggs/larvae to include lighting, habitat, temperature and humidity maintenance and any veterinary care requirements. Unless you are the long-term owner, at the conclusion of this study, turn the animal(s) over to another responsible party approved by your counselor.

COUNSELOR APPROVAL: IS REQUIRED.

Counselor's Name _____ Phone or Email _____

Counselor's Signature _____ Date _____ ☐ *approved*

Regardless of in-person or online class, if choosing this requirement option, you will need to plan and manage your work after receiving approval from the merit badge counselor

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

REQUIREMENT 8b:	Choose a reptile or amphibian that you can observe or foster at a local zoo, aquarium, nature center, local rescue, or other such exhibit (such as your classroom or school). Study the specimen weekly for a period of three months. At each visit, sketch the specimen in its captive habitat and note any changes in its coloration, shedding of skins, and general habits and behavior. Discuss with your counselor how the animal you observed was cared for to include its housing and habitat, how the lighting, temperature, and humidity were maintained, and any veterinary care requirements. Find out, either from information you locate on your own or by talking to the caretaker, what this species eats and what are its native habitat and home range, preferred climate, average life expectancy, and natural predators. Also, identify any human-caused threats to its population and any laws that protect the species and its habitat. After the observation period, share what you have learned with your counselor.

Regardless of in-person or online class, if choosing this requirement option, you will need to plan and manage your work prior to sharing your completed work with the merit badge counselor

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

Notes:

DO TWO OF THE FOLLOWING (9A, 9B, or 9C) FOR REQUIREMENT 9

REQUIREMENT 9a:	Identify at night three kinds of toads or frogs by their voices. Imitate the song of each for your counselor. Stalk each with a flashlight and discover how each sings and from where.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 9b:	Identify by sight eight species of reptiles or amphibians.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

REQUIREMENT 9c:	Using visual aids, give a brief talk to a small group on three different reptiles and amphibians.

Be sure to bring your visual aids to share with your merit badge counselor, time will be provided during the class to do your brief talk in needed.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

REQUIREMENT 10:	Tell five superstitions or false beliefs about reptiles and amphibians and give a correct explanation for each.

SUPERSTITION #1:

Example:

Correct Explanation:

SUPERSTITION #2:

Example:

Correct Explanation:

SUPERSTITION #3:

Example:

Correct Explanation:

SUPERSTITION #4:
Example:
Correct Explanation:
SUPERSTITION #5:
Example:
Correct Explanation:

REQUIREMENT 10:	Give seven examples of unusual behavior or other true facts about reptiles and amphibians.
EXAMPLE #1:	
Unusual Behavior or True Fact:	
EXAMPLE #2:	
Unusual Behavior or True Fact:	

EXAMPLE #3:
Unusual Behavior or True Fact:
EXAMPLE #4:
Unusual Behavior or True Fact:
EXAMPLE #5:
Unusual Behavior or True Fact:
EXAMPLE #6:
Unusual Behavior or True Fact:
EXAMPLE #7:
Unusual Behavior or True Fact: