

“ANIMAL SOCIETY”
Episode 05 “Reptiles”
Final Timecoded Script

SERIES INTRO:

001 00:00:01:00 00:00:02:11
Across our world, we live

002 00:00:04:08 00:00:05:06
In cities

003 00:00:05:13 00:00:06:12
And villages

004 00:00:08:04 00:00:10:00
All part of a greater whole

005 00:00:11:03 00:00:12:12
But we’re not alone

006 00:00:14:17 00:00:16:03
They come in herds

007 00:00:17:23 00:00:18:19
Hives

008 00:00:19:18 00:00:20:19
And swarms

009 00:00:21:12 00:00:22:07
Prides

010 00:00:22:18 00:00:23:07
Packs

011 00:00:23:18 00:00:24:12
And pairs

012 00:00:24:21 00:00:26:00
Living in nature

013 00:00:26:12 00:00:28:06
Members of society

EPISODE INTRO:

014 00:00:38:19 00:00:40:11

In every corner of the globe

015 00:00:41:08 00:00:45:06

Anywhere warm, tropical, subtropical or temperate

016 00:00:45:14 00:00:47:03

Reptiles exist

017 00:00:47:17 00:00:54:06

One of the earliest groups of animals on land, they were the forefathers of the dinosaurs, birds and mammals

018 00:00:54:23 00:00:56:22

Coming in all shapes and sizes

019 00:00:57:06 00:01:00:09

Including turtles, crocodilians, snakes

020 00:01:00:14 00:01:03:19

Lizards, tuatara, amphisbaenians

021 00:01:03:22 00:01:12:16

Ranging from the largest, the Nile crocodile weighing in at 1900 pounds, to the smallest, the dwarf gecko, at less than half an inch long

022 00:01:13:00 00:01:17:10

While many are solitary, others come together in great numbers and smaller groups

023 00:01:18:01 00:01:20:07

With all manners of social structures

SEGMENT 1:

024 00:01:20:18 00:01:23:23

Crocodilians being among the most easily identifiable

025 00:01:24:19 00:01:32:19

A wide group of closely related carnivorous archosaurs, they evolved 200 million years ago as a distant relation to the dinosaurs

026 00:01:33:06 00:01:36:08

They can be found throughout all tropical climates

027 00:01:36:13 00:01:40:01

Even being found in subtropical United States and China

028 00:01:41:00 00:01:45:07

Primarily semi-aquatic, they can be found in lakes, rivers, swamps

029 00:01:45:15 00:01:46:21

Even the open ocean

030 00:01:47:22 00:02:00:07

Though most reside in lowland freshwater bodies, brackish water or hyper-saline lakes, only a few, such as the saltwater crocodile, able to swim out to sea to colonize new areas

031 00:02:00:14 00:02:10:13

Their body uniquely adapted to their lifestyle, with short stocky legs and a powerful tail to minimize drag, the tail providing their primary propulsion underwater

032 00:02:10:19 00:02:18:01

Even able to lower their heart rate to consume less oxygen, some species able to stay underwater for up to 2 whole hours

033 00:02:18:11 00:02:20:20

They can be divided into three groups

034 00:02:20:24 00:02:27:00

True crocodiles, recognizable for their V-shaped snout and visible teeth even when their mouth is closed

035 00:02:27:10 00:02:32:09

Found throughout Africa south of the Sahara, Southeast Asia, Northern Australia and Mesoamerica

036 00:02:34:22 00:02:39:21

Alligators and caimans, distinguished by their U-shaped snout and less visible teeth

037 00:02:40:02 00:02:43:05

Found mainly in fresh-waters of the Americas and China

038 00:02:44:07 00:02:53:01

And the gharial and the false gharial, identifiable by their very narrow snout, sharp needle-like teeth and diet of primarily fish

039 00:02:53:12 00:02:58:09

As the shape of the crocodilians snout and their teeth is highly indicative of their diet

040 00:02:58:23 00:03:09:06

A broader, U-shaped snout and robust, blunt teeth being specifically adapted to a crush protective shells of prey such as turtles, shellfish and molluscs

041 00:03:09:13 00:03:14:13

While a V-shaped snout and sharper teeth being primarily suited for a more general diet

042 00:03:14:17 00:03:20:14

Including invertebrates, amphibians, fish, birds, mammals and even other reptiles

043 00:03:21:03 00:03:27:10

Many crocodilians widely known for their massive bite force, some being the strongest in the animal kingdom

044 00:03:27:15 00:03:33:16

Exerting pressure of nearly 4000 pounds for some species, strong enough to crush bone

045 00:03:33:20 00:03:42:10

Most crocodilians hunting by remaining submerged, only their eyes and snout being above water to decrease their chances of detection

046 00:03:44:02 00:03:49:01

Striking fast and suddenly, killing it either by drowning or by violently shaking it

047 00:03:49:23 00:03:53:07

Inducing whiplash and even breaking the neck of their prey

048 00:03:54:05 00:03:59:12

Twisting in the water while biting down to tear off chunks which are then swallowed whole

049 00:04:00:15 00:04:04:15

Though all crocodiles have also be found to be highly opportunistic

050 00:04:04:21 00:04:16:14

Eating carrion as well, sometimes by necessity as their chosen prey may be too thick in hide to tear apart, instead waiting for the body to decompose in the water to come apart more easily

051 00:04:17:05 00:04:23:12

They are cold-blooded and rely on alternating between basking in the sunlight to keep their metabolism high

052 00:04:24:12 00:04:28:05

And wallowing in mud to keep cool when they risk overheating

053 00:04:28:16 00:04:35:20

Crocodylians are highly territorial, many being typically solitary, violently defending their area from other crocodiles

054 00:04:36:04 00:04:41:23

Though some, such as the Nile crocodile, may occasionally collaborating to take down larger prey

055 00:04:42:07 00:04:46:20

Employing a variety of complex collaborative tactics to lure prey into ambushes

056 00:04:47:05 00:04:53:13

Alligators also frequently sharing basking sites, coming together in small groups of a dozen individuals

057 00:04:53:24 00:04:57:15

As a result, crocodylian communication is often extensive

058 00:04:58:09 00:05:04:06

Ranging from an array of crude vocalizations, such as grunts, roars and bellows among adults

059 00:05:04:14 00:05:07:04

To squeaks and yelps of juveniles

060 00:05:07:09 00:05:16:21

As well as extensive body language, including headslapping, where the crocodylian raises its head above the water, snapping their jaws shut as they splash back down

061 00:05:17:01 00:05:19:07

Used primarily for courtship purposes

062 00:05:19:23 00:05:28:03

Exclusively polygynous, males mating with several females, males often patrol large areas containing several prospective mates

063 00:05:28:07 00:05:34:09

With the notable exception of American alligators, which can occasionally form monogamous pairs during mating season

064 00:05:35:24 00:05:40:18

Mating season typically occurring once a year, during late spring for most species

065 00:05:41:04 00:05:43:16

Initialized by elaborate courtship rituals

066 00:05:43:18 00:05:45:15

As with the American alligator

067 00:05:46:00 00:05:49:15

The males grouping together to form large bellowing choruses

068 00:05:50:11 00:05:53:19

Submerging their bodies, emitting a deep resounding bellow

069 00:05:54:11 00:05:56:22

Resonating through the surface of the water

070 00:05:57:16 00:06:02:04

Sometimes leading to infighting between males when outnumbering the females

071 00:06:03:00 00:06:04:18

Biting and tearing at each other

072 00:06:05:14 00:06:07:01

Sometimes until death

073 00:06:07:08 00:06:13:17

Once a female approaches, the male then rubs against her, circling around and swimming in a complex display

074 00:06:14:02 00:06:18:16

Mating then occurs in the water, the female submerging as the male rubs against her neck

075 00:06:19:01 00:06:19:22

Mounting her

076 00:06:20:01 00:06:23:05

Their tails aligning so their cloaca can meet

077 00:06:23:13 00:06:28:18

Mating itself lasts up to 15 minutes, with the pair continuously submerging and surfacing

078 00:06:28:23 00:06:30:21

Repeated until conception occurs

079 00:06:31:09 00:06:34:11

The male then leaves to allow the female to construct a nest

080 00:06:34:22 00:06:39:01

Either a hole in the ground or a small mound of foliage, sand or soil

081 00:06:39:21 00:06:44:15

The female then lays between 10 to 50 eggs, covering it in soil for incubation

082 00:06:45:08 00:06:50:11

The eggs then incubate for a period of 2 to 3 months, the temperature determining the sex of the hatchlings

083 00:06:51:15 00:06:55:19

Unusual for reptiles, the female exhibits great care for her young

084 00:06:56:09 00:07:00:11

Continuously monitoring the nest, remaining within the area until hatching

085 00:07:00:14 00:07:07:01

Communication will occur already within the eggs as the soon-to-be hatchlings tap their shells to synchronize their hatching

086 00:07:07:03 00:07:12:20

The female then returns to excavate the hatchlings, taking them into her mouth to lead them into the water

087 00:07:12:23 00:07:17:08

The young remaining close to their mother for between a few months to up to 2 years

088 00:07:17:20 00:07:24:15

Occasionally employing alloparenting, where some species gather around in larger nursery groups caring for each others young

089 00:07:25:02 00:07:29:17

Mortality rates are significantly high among hatchlings and even the eggs themselves

090 00:07:29:19 00:07:36:20

Nests often flooded if positioned too close to the water, overheated if dug too deep or left too exposed to the sunlight

091 00:07:36:21 00:07:42:14

Or raided by predators, such as monkeys, raccoons, bears, otters and lizards

092 00:07:42:23 00:07:47:00

Many predators additionally waiting nearby for the hatchlings to emerge

093 00:07:47:14 00:07:53:07

Maturity is reached when the crocodilian has grown to a competitive size, rather than a particular age

094 00:07:53:23 00:07:56:23

Thus depending largely on the availability of food

095 00:07:57:13 00:08:03:09

Once reaching adulthood, the mortality rate drops sharply as most crocodilians are apex predators

096 00:08:03:11 00:08:07:07

Having few natural enemies, apart from the great cats of South America

097 00:08:07:13 00:08:10:23

Lifespans ranging between 35 to 75 years

098 00:08:11:01 00:08:13:23

Crocodilians continuously growing their entire lives

099 00:08:14:05 00:08:19:16

Not aging in a traditional sense, typically only dying of disease or other crocodilians

SEGMENT 2:

100 00:08:31:05 00:08:34:18

Turtles are among the most recognizable reptiles in the world

101 00:08:34:21 00:08:38:15

Known for being slow-moving, protected by their distinct shell

102 00:08:38:24 00:08:45:14

Found in most temperate and tropical areas throughout the world, they exist on every continent outside of Antarctica

103 00:08:45:19 00:08:51:11

They are the oldest living group of reptiles, having evolved over 200 million years ago

104 00:08:51:14 00:08:57:16

Distantly related to crocodiles and dinosaurs, they are unlike any other group of reptiles in appearance

105 00:08:57:24 00:09:01:19

Spread out over 14 families with 300 species

106 00:09:02:05 00:09:08:05

They range in size from the smallest, the speckled padloper tortoise at barely 3 inches in length

107 00:09:08:10 00:09:12:21

To the largest, the leatherback sea turtle, at 6.6 feet

108 00:09:13:07 00:09:15:20

They can be either carnivorous or herbivorous

109 00:09:16:17 00:09:25:19

Dictating the shape and function of their powerful jaw, which completely lacks teeth, instead being a sharp bony beak that's a direct extension of their skull

110 00:09:26:16 00:09:32:04

They can be both semi-aquatic or terrestrial, dictating their shape and size accordingly

111 00:09:32:06 00:09:35:13

Though all turtles breathe air and lay their eggs on land

112 00:09:35:15 00:09:38:01

Turtles can be divided into three groups

113 00:09:38:03 00:09:41:22

True turtles, including sea turtles and fresh-water turtles

114 00:09:41:24 00:09:49:15

Characterized by their smooth shell as well as their limbs being adapted for swimming, as they are semi-aquatic, spending their lives in the water

115 00:09:49:24 00:10:00:08

Tortoises, being land turtles with rough skin and irregularly shaped domed shell, to make it harder for predators to grip onto it and bite it, as they live exclusively on land

116 00:10:00:13 00:10:05:24

And terrapins, being small hard-shelled semi-aquatic turtles found in brackish water

117 00:10:06:20 00:10:10:13

Most turtles being freshwater turtles, found in lakes and rivers

118 00:10:10:15 00:10:13:21

Many having evolved webbed feet for paddling in the water

119 00:10:14:03 00:10:18:22

As well as robust claws to pull themselves onto riverbanks to bask in the sunlight

120 00:10:19:06 00:10:23:08

Though a few have evolved fused digits, forming true flippers

121 00:10:23:22 00:10:27:23

Such as the 7 species of sea turtles who rarely come on land

122 00:10:28:17 00:10:36:18

While the group of 57 species of tortoises, who are exclusively terrestrial, have instead evolved short stocky legs to support the weight of their massive shell on land

123 00:10:37:14 00:10:40:18

The shell having formed as an extension of their skeleton

124 00:10:41:01 00:10:44:10

Their ribs flattened and fused to form a solid surface

125 00:10:44:14 00:10:57:00

The only exceptions being softshell turtles and the leatherback sea turtle, whose shells are only partially bony, instead made up of thicker, oily leather-like skin radiating from a single solid part at the center

126 00:10:57:10 00:11:01:00

Their shoulders and hip girdles remaining inside their ribcage

127 00:11:01:09 00:11:04:10

Enabling them movement without distorting the shell

128 00:11:06:00 00:11:09:08

For protection, turtles can withdraw their heads under the shell

129 00:11:09:13 00:11:14:10

By contracting their necks to the side, as with an array of South American and Australian turtles

130 00:11:14:13 00:11:18:19

Or by contracting their necks under their spine, as with all other turtles

131 00:11:19:00 00:11:22:24

Most turtles are active during the day, as they are coldblooded

132 00:11:23:17 00:11:27:21

Relying on the warmth of the sun to increase their metabolism to remain active

133 00:11:28:02 00:11:32:03

While in colder climates, turtles may go into hibernation over the winter

134 00:11:32:09 00:11:34:23

Slowing down bodily activity to a near halt

135 00:11:35:04 00:11:38:05

Though they will still frequently wake up to drink water

136 00:11:38:14 00:11:43:22

Their eyesight having full color vision, enabling them to see both in muddy waters and on land

137 00:11:44:00 00:11:46:10

All turtles having a keenly developed sense of smell

138 00:11:46:23 00:11:51:02

Having nerve-filled bumps under their chins to detect chemical signatures

139 00:11:51:04 00:11:55:16

Such as those of the pheromones emitted by fertile females during mating season

140 00:11:57:20 00:12:04:08

While their sense of hearing is limited, having no external eardrums, instead relying on vibrations in the air

141 00:12:05:20 00:12:12:14

Communication is thus limited mainly to the use of pheromones, body language and touching rather than calls

142 00:12:13:04 00:12:16:09

Their skin and shell being highly sensitive to touch

143 00:12:16:13 00:12:22:17

With turtles leading mostly solitary lives, only coming together for mating season or migration

144 00:12:23:06 00:12:28:19

Particularly sea turtles, who can migrate huge distances in large groups known as bales

145 00:12:29:05 00:12:35:14

Though their social interaction remains highly limited until mating season which occurs once a year for most species

146 00:12:37:03 00:12:39:14

Typically around spring or early summer

147 00:12:40:18 00:12:44:00

While species found in tropical climates, can mate year-round

148 00:12:45:08 00:12:48:13

And sea turtles only mating every two to four years

149 00:12:48:15 00:12:51:22

Mating consists of simple display and courtship rituals

150 00:12:52:05 00:12:55:24

Initialized by the male, having tracked a female based on her scent

151 00:12:56:12 00:13:00:04

Many freshwater turtles and terrapins having swimming displays

152 00:13:00:08 00:13:05:20

Wherein the male swims around the female, touching her and fluttering around her to get her attention

153 00:13:06:16 00:13:14:13

Sea turtles, similarly, will court the female through swimming around, though most also group together, competing for the attention of a single female

154 00:13:14:23 00:13:20:00

While tortoises will bully the female into submission by ramming the female into position

155 00:13:20:13 00:13:26:03

While snapping turtles will sway their heads side to side, if the female reciprocates, she is agreeing

156 00:13:26:09 00:13:31:00

Mating then begins with the male mounting the female, wrapping his tail underneath hers

157 00:13:31:04 00:13:33:06

The mating is brief and repeated

158 00:13:33:10 00:13:37:08

Most being polyandrous, the female mating with several males

159 00:13:38:16 00:13:43:15

Storing the sperm from many males in her oviducts until she builds a nest in her rookery

160 00:13:43:23 00:13:46:22

Females returning to the same site every year

161 00:13:47:18 00:13:54:23

Some species of sea turtles even forming large migratory groups of even thousands of individuals, known as arribadas

162 00:13:56:07 00:13:58:15

The turtle will then dig out an egg chamber

163 00:13:58:22 00:14:04:19

Either located on a beach or river bank, as with freshwater turtles, terrapins and sea turtles

164 00:14:05:07 00:14:07:17

Or on hillsides, as with tortoises

165 00:14:08:17 00:14:15:09

The turtle then lays between a single egg to several hundred, depending on the species and the size of the individual turtle

166 00:14:15:15 00:14:20:08

Incubation takes between 3 to 4 months, the young turtle inside being folded over

167 00:14:20:11 00:14:24:15

Gradually straightening out until they're pressed up against the shell, breaking through

168 00:14:25:00 00:14:29:01

Tortoise hatchlings scattering upon birth, immediately looking for food

169 00:14:29:11 00:14:34:12

While freshwater turtles and sea turtles instead head straight for the nearest body of water

170 00:14:34:14 00:14:39:08

Spending most of their first years close to shore before venturing out closer to adulthood

171 00:14:40:06 00:14:46:09

As the mortality rate for hatchlings is extremely high, 99% not surviving their first year

172 00:14:47:02 00:14:52:10

Most being victims of predation, attacked by lizards, snakes, even birds and small mammals

173 00:14:53:03 00:14:55:17

Turtles then typically take long to mature

174 00:14:56:01 00:14:59:14

Anywhere between 2 years as with most freshwater turtles

175 00:15:00:01 00:15:02:17

To up to 50 years as with green sea turtles

176 00:15:04:20 00:15:08:24

Turtles are also typically long-lived, anywhere between 20 to 50 years

177 00:15:09:11 00:15:14:13

As they do not experience cellular deterioration or aging in a traditional sense

178 00:15:15:20 00:15:21:02

Their internal organs continually renewing until death by disease or predation

179 00:15:21:11 00:15:29:08

Some, like the Aldabra giant tortoise, even having been reported to reach an age of 255 years prior to death

SEGMENT 3:

180 00:15:40:17 00:15:41:19

Snakes

181 00:15:42:03 00:15:46:19

They exist in every corner of the world, on every continent except Antarctica

182 00:15:46:23 00:15:48:20

Found in all kinds of environments

183 00:15:48:24 00:15:52:22

From arid deserts and grasslands to jungles and forests

184 00:15:53:07 00:15:55:03

Even in the ocean itself

185 00:15:56:11 00:16:00:18

With over 3000 species spread out over more than 20 families

186 00:16:01:09 00:16:04:11

It is also one of the most diverse groups of reptiles

187 00:16:04:24 00:16:08:16

Having evolved over 100 million years ago from lizards

188 00:16:09:21 00:16:12:10

They range in size from the tiny the thread snake

189 00:16:12:21 00:16:14:19

Less than 4 inches long

190 00:16:14:20 00:16:18:16

To the reticulated python at over 25 feet long

191 00:16:19:21 00:16:26:04

The skin of a snake covered entirely by dry scales of varying size and texture, rough or smooth

192 00:16:26:09 00:16:29:17

That also enables easy locomotion while on land

193 00:16:29:23 00:16:33:07

Pushing and pulling by slithering or sidewinding

194 00:16:34:10 00:16:40:18

As they have no visible limbs, they rely entirely on a complex series of muscle contractions underneath their skin to move

195 00:16:40:24 00:16:44:21

Molting periodically to replace worn out or damaged scales

196 00:16:47:24 00:16:54:11

A notable exception being sea snakes, who swim by whipping the length of their body in segments side to side

197 00:16:55:11 00:16:59:17

Living most of their lives in the water, only coming on land to lay eggs

198 00:17:04:00 00:17:11:02

Their internal organs arranged front-to-back to accommodate their slimmed down form, with most snakes only having a single lung

199 00:17:14:08 00:17:22:11

All snakes are carnivorous, their prey being primarily insects and rodents but also larger mammals and reptiles, even other snakes

200 00:17:23:01 00:17:25:19

All are also able to swallow their prey whole

201 00:17:26:16 00:17:29:10

Their lower jaw divided into two parts

202 00:17:29:20 00:17:31:07

Separating in the middle

203 00:17:33:07 00:17:39:19

With multiple joints all along the snake's skull, able to bend it far out of shape to accommodate large prey

204 00:17:41:10 00:17:48:07

Feeding only sporadically, the snake will take hours, sometimes days or weeks to digest a single large prey

205 00:17:49:00 00:17:53:00

Resting for extended periods of time until it is ready to hunt again

206 00:17:53:22 00:18:04:06

They hunt primarily by their sense of smell using a forked tongue, constantly moving to collect airborne particles, bringing them to an organ at the roof of their mouth for analysis

207 00:18:04:14 00:18:07:14

Simultaneously smelling and tasting their surroundings

208 00:18:07:24 00:18:13:19

Some species, such as pythons and pit vipers, also have infrared sensitive receptors in their snout

209 00:18:14:14 00:18:18:21

Enabling them to sense heat signatures given off by warm-blooded animals

210 00:18:21:01 00:18:23:21

While their eyesight and hearing vary greatly

211 00:18:24:05 00:18:30:19

Some species being entirely blind while others have a keen sense of vision, attracted particularly to movement

212 00:18:30:21 00:18:34:07

Despite their eye itself being covered by a transparent scale

213 00:18:34:11 00:18:39:20

Their hearing consisting of detecting airborne vibrations rather than any traditional sense of hearing

214 00:18:40:00 00:18:44:08

Most easily being able to sense nearby animals, predator or prey alike

215 00:18:44:17 00:18:47:10

Most snakes are either venomous or constricting

216 00:18:48:02 00:18:55:22

Injecting venom into their prey via hollow fangs that induces paralysis to enable the snake to feed without being damaged internally

217 00:19:00:22 00:19:10:18

While constricting snakes will coil around their prey, crushing their bones and cutting off oxygen to the brain, feeding once their prey has died from internal injuries or suffocation

218 00:19:11:09 00:19:17:01

Some smaller species do neither however, instead swallowing smaller prey whole while they're still alive

219 00:19:18:06 00:19:25:03

Relying on their powerful internal muscles, corrosive stomach acid and suffocation to kill their prey before digesting

220 00:19:25:09 00:19:33:24

Cold-blooded, snakes rely on the outside temperature to remain active, warm climates enabling the snake to remain active throughout nearly the entire day

221 00:19:34:15 00:19:39:00

While in colder climates, the snake may only be active for a few hours each day

222 00:19:39:09 00:19:44:08

Going into hibernation over the winter months, their metabolism slowing to a near halt

223 00:19:44:24 00:19:49:06

Often found in deep hollows, underneath tree trunks and in caves

224 00:19:51:11 00:19:55:10

Mostly solitary, snakes employ little in terms of communication

225 00:19:55:16 00:19:59:00

Usually consisting of simple threat displays like hissing

226 00:20:00:10 00:20:04:18

Or as with cobras, fanning their ribcage to make them appear larger

227 00:20:05:09 00:20:10:12

Or, as with the rattlesnake, using their rattle to emit a warning sound before striking

228 00:20:12:07 00:20:16:08

Instead snakes rely mainly on body language for courtship rituals

229 00:20:16:12 00:20:20:12

With most species, the male snake is in constant search for a mate

230 00:20:20:16 00:20:29:02

Mating taking place year-round for snakes throughout their life cycle, preceded by either ritualized combat when males compete for a single female

231 00:20:29:05 00:20:31:19

Hissing at each other and by topping

232 00:20:32:12 00:20:37:21

Winding around each other, each trying to push the other snake down in a display of dominance

233 00:20:38:14 00:20:45:04

Or in a simple courtship ritual where the male and female entwine in a kind of dance, rubbing against each other

234 00:20:47:01 00:20:51:12

Snakes being either polygynous where a male mates with multiple females

235 00:20:53:00 00:20:56:16

Or polyandrous, with a female mating with several males

236 00:20:56:21 00:21:02:08

Snakes occasionally found in large numbers during mating, coiling and winding around each other

237 00:21:04:04 00:21:13:24

Mating occurs through internal fertilization, the snake employing a pair of forked hemipenes that are normally inverted within its body, to enter the female's cloaca

238 00:21:14:08 00:21:17:22

The male then leaving in search of another mate or food

239 00:21:21:11 00:21:26:21

Most snakes lay eggs, often either left in the open or lightly covered by foliage

240 00:21:27:01 00:21:29:11

Abandoning the eggs from that point on

241 00:21:32:16 00:21:37:07

The young snakes emerging from the soft-shelled eggs once they've consumed the yolk

242 00:21:37:14 00:21:40:22

By pushing against the shell with a temporary egg tooth

243 00:21:41:01 00:21:44:21

While pythons and the king cobra guard the eggs until hatching

244 00:21:45:02 00:21:50:13

Pythons even warming the eggs by wrapping themselves around them, vibrating to generate heat

245 00:21:51:12 00:21:56:21

A few, such as the boa constrictor, being unique among reptiles in that they give live births

246 00:21:56:24 00:22:00:20

Either with the eggs held inside the female's oviduct until hatching

247 00:22:00:22 00:22:02:22

Or by genuine placental births

248 00:22:03:13 00:22:07:01

After which, the female takes no part in raising her young

249 00:22:07:08 00:22:10:23

The young snakes then disperse immediately in search of food

250 00:22:11:05 00:22:18:13

The vast majority of snakes not surviving their first year, falling prey to predators such as birds or other snakes

251 00:22:20:02 00:22:27:07

The age in which a snake reaches maturity varies greatly between species, and is generally linked to size rather than age

252 00:22:27:09 00:22:33:01

With particularly males having to reach a superior size to be able to effectively compete for a female

253 00:22:33:17 00:22:41:06

The lifespan likewise varies greatly, from a few years for smaller snakes, up to 40 or 50 years for larger species

OUTRO:

254 00:22:42:10 00:22:45:18

Snakes, along with turtles and crocodilians

255 00:22:46:23 00:22:48:17

Both as predators and prey

256 00:22:50:19 00:22:53:09

Form essential links in their ecology

257 00:22:54:14 00:22:57:03

From large groups to smaller ones

258 00:22:58:11 00:22:59:22

To loners and pairs

259 00:23:01:04 00:23:03:22

They can be found in all manners of environment

260 00:23:06:06 00:23:10:23

Each of them being an essential component to the circle of life surrounding them

261 00:23:13:08 00:23:16:04

All members of an animal society

METRICS:

021 00:01:03:22 00:01:12:16

Ranging from the largest, the Nile crocodile weighing in at over 800 kilograms, to the smallest, the dwarf gecko, at barely a centimeter long

044 00:03:27:15 00:03:33:16

Exerting pressure of nearly 1800 kilograms for some species, strong enough to crush bone

106 00:09:02:05 00:09:08:05

They range in size from the smallest, the speckled padloper tortoise at barely 8 centimeters in length

107 00:09:08:10 00:09:12:21

To the largest, the leatherback sea turtle, at 2 meters long

189 00:16:12:21 00:16:14:19

Less than 10 centimeters long

190 00:16:14:20 00:16:18:16

To the reticulated python at nearly 8 meters long