



Student Worksheet (Answers) High School (Grades 9- 12)

Name: _____

***A selection of questions within the worksheet have been designed to support South Dakota Science Standards, updated as of 2024.*

The answers can be found by exploring the dome, and using your brain!

SAFARI ROOM (located in the center of the Skydome)

1. **(HS-LS4-4)** Compare the primarily terrestrial Box Turtle with the more aquatic Roti Island Snake-Necked Turtle. What is an adaptation that each species has that gives them an advantage within their preferred habitats? Why?

Answer: Answers may vary. For example: Snake-necked turtle- webbed feet allow for a greater ability to swim in aquatic environments. Box turtle- clubbed feet with thicker scales allow for better movement across land.

2. What is the tallest cactus species?

Answer: Peruvian Apple Cactus

3. Why was the Smooth-front Caiman not sought after for its skin?

Answer: Because their skin is heavily ossified, or armored.

MEZZANINE (upstairs level of the Skydome)

1. What are the “growths” called behind the ears of the Smooth Sided Toad? What do these glands produce, and what is it used for?

Answer: They are called parotid glands. They produce a toxin that helps protect them from predators.

2. **(HS-LS2-7)** The US Fish and Wildlife service uses a number of laws to combat the illegal wildlife trade. List three of these laws.

Answer: Answers can include: The Endangered Species Act, The Lacey Act, The Marine Mammal Protection Act, The African Elephant Conservation Act, and The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

- a. **(HS-LS4-6)** How do these laws help protect wildlife?

Answer: Answers can vary.

- b. What do you think are possible effects that the Wildlife Trade has on wild populations? (List two possible effects.)

Answer: Answers can vary.

3. Iguanas are the New World counterpart of what Old World group?

Answer: Monitors

4. List 3 native South Dakota reptiles that are on display:

Answer: Our display includes the Prairie Rattlesnake, Bull Snake, Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer, Western Hognose Snake, and Pale Milk Snake. While there is no signage, there is also a Garter Snake.

- a. Which is the only venomous snake found in South Dakota?

Answer: Prairie Rattlesnake

5. What purpose do you think venom serves a snake?

Answer: The main use of venom is for hunting, but snakes will also utilize it for protection from possible predators.

6. What is another name given to the Australian Scrub Python? Why?

Answer: Amethystine Python. Their scales have an iridescent/ amethyst colored sheen.

7. Find the King Cobra! What is the record length for this snake?

Answer: 18 feet

8. What is the process female Komodo Dragons can use to produce offspring when there are no males around?

Answer: Parthenogenesis

LOWER RING (downstairs level of the Skydome)

1. What are two species of Caiman that can be found in South America? Provide the common and scientific name.

Answer: Species include: Dwarf Caiman (*Palaeosuchus palpebrosus*), Broad-snouted Caiman (*Caiman latirostris*), Smooth-fronted Caiman (*Palaeosuchus trigonatus*), Spectacled Caiman (*Caiman crocodylus*), Yacare Caiman (*Caiman yacare*), and the Black Caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*).

2. What is the scientific name of the Johnston's Crocodile?

Answer: *Crocodylus johnstoni*

3. Find the endangered Cuban Crocodiles.

a. What does endangered mean?

Answer: While no definition is provided on display, an “endangered” animal is a species at risk of extinction.

b. Why are Cuban Crocodiles endangered?

Answer: Extreme habitat loss and continuing human population pressures.

4. Why are Budgett’s Frogs named the “Freddy Kruger Frog”?

Answer: Because of the way they comp and hold onto prey- or fingers.

5. What do Eastern Newts eat?

Answer: Insects, frog and fish eggs, and mollusks.

6. What is the most venomous scorpion species found in the United States?

Answer: Arizona Bark Scorpion

7. How toxic is the venom of the Black Widow spider compared to the venom of most rattlesnakes?

Answer: 15 times more toxic.

Bonus:

What year was the Mt. Mangshan Pit Viper identified by scientists?

Answer: 1989