

Activities to accompany
The Tale of Alexander
the Blue Tongue Lizard
(a true story)



Note: Activities range in difficulty; less difficult ones tend to appear on the first pages.

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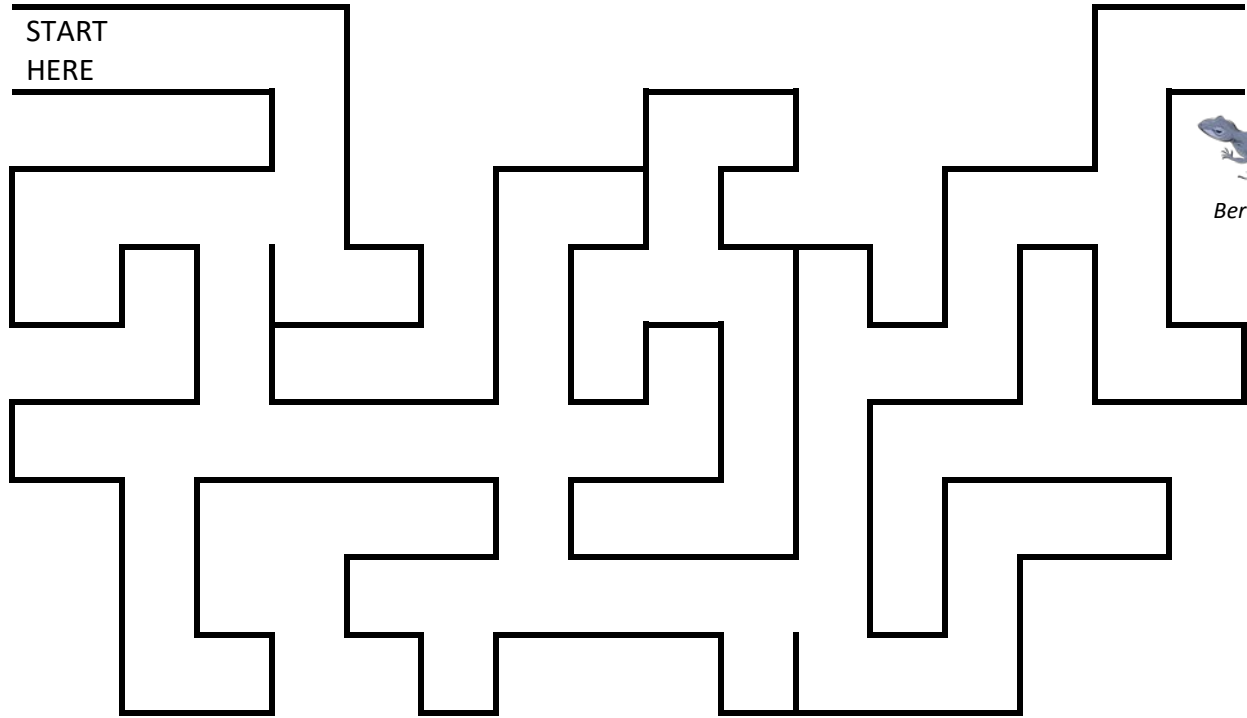
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Can you help Alexander find Bertha?



Alexander

Trace the way out of the maze with your pencil



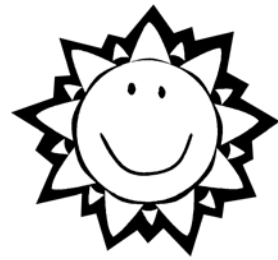
Trace over the words in the sentence and draw the picture.

Alexander is in
the vegetable 
garden.





_ egetables



_ un



_ itchen



_ arden



_ ree



_ izard

g l t k s v

See if you can trace inside the letters. Write the correct letters at the beginning of each word.



Alexander the Blue Tongue Lizard



Can you use the words below to fill the gaps in the sentences?

garden bark look sun

Lizards lie in the _____ to warm up.

Alexander had a blanket made of _____.

Alexander went to _____ for Bertha.

Alexander looked in the vegetable _____.





Blue Tongue Lizard Facts

If threatened, blue tongue lizards will inflate their lungs, causing the body to swell and appear larger.

The blue tongue lizard may turn towards the threat with mouth wide open, exposing a startling blue tongue and pink mouth.

When they exhale, the body deflates, creating a hissing noise.

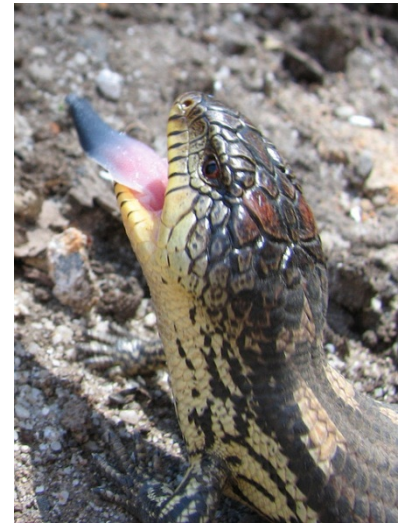
Blue tongue lizards eat a variety of plant and animal materials. Fleshy leaves, flowers and fruits, strawberries, large insects.

Slow moving creatures such as slugs and snails are favourites.

Lifespan 20 years

Size 50 cm

- While young, they are at risk from attack by large birds such as currawongs and kookaburras.
- Dogs, cats and snails poisoned with snail bait are the most common threats to their safety.
- They are slow moving and largely defenceless.
- Female blue tongues stay within one area.
- Males wander over a wider area and have several females.
- Mating sometimes looks like a fight, and injuries may happen.
- Blue tongues do not lay eggs - baby blue-tongues are born fully formed.
- Blue tongues are not venomous, but may try to bite.



*Watch out,
the blue tongue
lizard loves to eat snails!*

Safety Tips for Blue Tongue Lizards



WARNING SIGN OR POSTER

Can you make a blue tongue lizard safety sign or poster for display?

- What are the most common threats to the blue tongue lizard?
- What are some tips for keeping a blue tongue lizard safe?

First make a draft, jotting down your ideas and perhaps a sketch of how your poster might look.

Next, think about how you can capture attention with your poster.

How can you make your poster clear and easy to read?



Blue Tongue Lizard Camouflage Collage

The blue tongue lizard is slow moving and easily attacked by dogs, cats and larger birds.

The blue tongue is well camouflaged - the blotches, stripes and patterns on its skin blend well with the bark and leaves of the bush.



There are six different species of blue tongues in Australia each with their own unique characteristics.

- Research the different species and decide which one is your favourite.
- Make up a fact sheet .
- Create a collage. Use items such as leaves and bark to create a collage showing your favourite species of blue tongue in its habitat. Make sure that your blue tongue is well camouflaged.

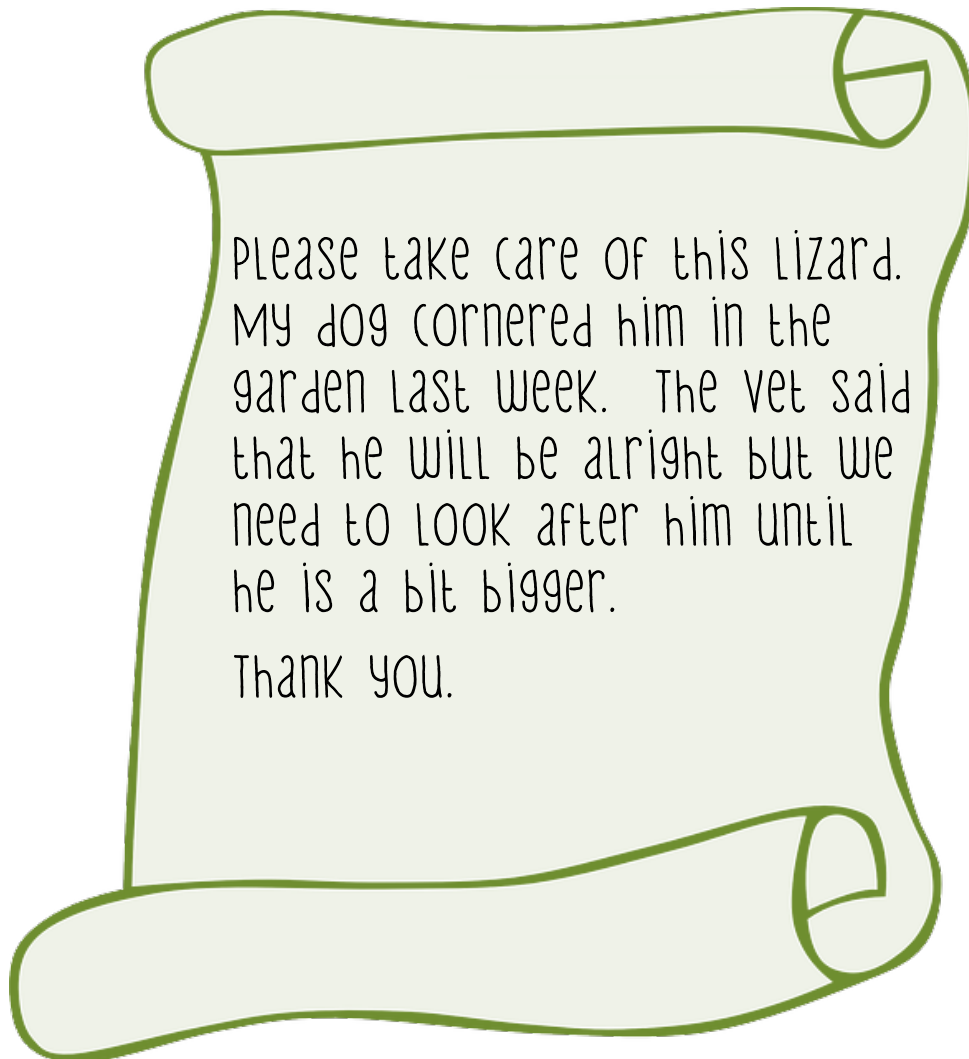


How many blue tongue lizards are in the picture? Clue: More than one and less than three.



Blue Tongue Lizard Keeper

You arrive at school one day to find a glass fronted wooden box on the doorstep of your classroom with a young blue tongue lizard inside. There is a note taped to the tank:



- Use the videos and fact sheet on *The True Tale of Alexander the Blue Tongue Lizard* page to find out what you need to do to take care of the lizard.
- Make an attractive instruction book for use by other students in the class so that everyone can take a turn at caring for the lizard.
- Create a poster announcing a competition to name the lizard. Organize the collection and judging of the entries.
- Discuss with your teacher and classmates the safest place to release the blue tongue when he is bigger.

Special note: Have you found a blue tongue lizard? All Australian lizards are protected species in Australia. A license may be required to keep a blue tongue lizard as a pet. Seek individual state & territory requirements. If you wish to introduce a new lizard to your collection, it is important to quarantine them. This helps to prevent introducing disease or parasites, so speak your reptile vet about proper quarantine procedures.