







## Student Research Guide

Specimen # Scientific name Common name	Media	Information
<a href="#">Herpetology R-176877</a> <i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i> Common garter snake		<p>The common garter snake is a non-venomous snake found across much of North America. It lives in a wide variety of environments including abandoned farmland, fields, and stonewalls, as well as urban parks, and backyards. Garter snakes conceal themselves under logs, stones, leaves and other debris where they can hide from predators. They mostly eat frogs, slugs, and worms but also small birds and mammals.</p>
<a href="#">Herpetology R-45784</a> <i>Amphisbaena fuliginosa</i>  Speckled worm lizard		<p>The speckled worm lizard is not a lizard but a species of amphisbaenian, a type of reptile, that is found in the Amazonian forests of South America. The body is covered with rings of scales called annuli, that have a checkered pattern. It has no outer ears and the eyes are recessed and covered with scales. It is a burrowing, nocturnal species that eats insects and larvae with its slit-like mouth. Unlike a snake, this worm lizard moves with an <a href="#">accordion motion</a>. Because it lives underground, its habits are not well known.</p>
<a href="#">Herpetology A-19972</a> <i>Chthonerpeton perisodus</i> Caecilian (an amphibian)	<a href="#">Facts and information from National Geographic</a> 	<p>Caecilians are a group of limbless worm-like amphibians. Their slimy skin is covered with ring-shaped folds called annuli that encircle the body. Their eyes are tiny or, in some species, completely hidden, and they have no ear openings. Most caecilians live underground in the loose soil and leaf litter of tropical forests but some live in water. Sensitive tentacles on the head help them find food and navigate underground. They eat worms, termites, small snakes, and lizards that they grab with needle-like teeth. Although legless, their sturdy skulls and strong muscles make them powerful burrowers. These unusual animals are believed to have evolved from small four-legged creatures resembling salamanders.</p>

<p><a href="#">Herpetology</a> <a href="#">R-166600</a> <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i> Eastern milksnake</p>		<p>The Eastern Milksnake is a common snake with a wide geographic range, stretching from Canada into South America. Its color is variable. In New England, these snakes tend to have muted colors of brown and gray which allows them to camouflage in leaf litter. This is a secretive snake that is often found beneath rocks, logs, stumps and boards. This species is a burrower and spends much of its time beneath the ground. Young milksnakes eat slugs, worms and insects while adults mostly eat rodents. Because they are often found in barns, it was once thought that they drank milk from cows. In fact, they were hunting mice!</p>
<p><a href="#">Herpetology</a> <a href="#">R-175743</a> <i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>  Slender glass lizard</p>		<p>The slender glass lizard is legless lizard found in southeastern and southern North America. It is active during the day and sleeps and hibernates in underground burrows. This lizard eats insects, snails and small mammals. If approached, the glass lizard may remain motionless to blend in with its surroundings. It can also avoid predation by fracturing its tail and leaving it to distract predators, hence its name.</p>
<p><a href="#">Herpetology</a> <a href="#">R-145394</a> <i>Bipes biporus</i> Mexican mole lizard</p>		<p>The Mexican mole lizard is not a lizard. Like the speckled worm lizard, it is a type of reptile called an amphisbaenian. It lives in California and Mexico. It has a blunt head and strong, paddle-like front legs that allow it to burrow in sandy soils. Its skin is covered with rings of small scales called annuli. The mole lizard lives underground other than at night or after heavy rain. It has an autotomous (detachable) tail that allows it to escape from predators. It feeds on ants, termites, earthworms and other small animals.</p>

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