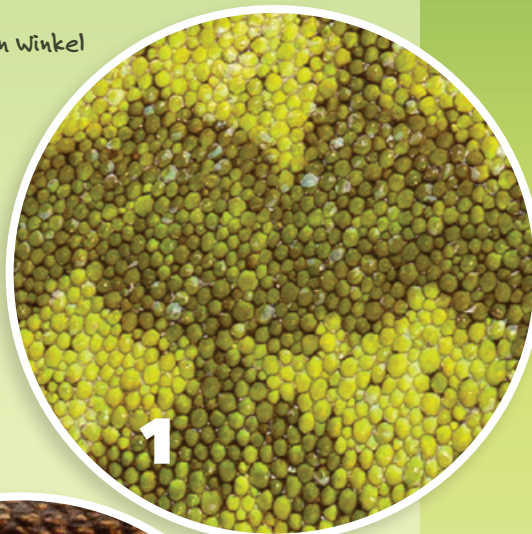


Whose skin is this?

Act like a scientist, and identify gecko and skink species by looking at the patterns on their skin. Use the NZ Herpetological Society website (reptiles.org.nz/herpetofauna/native-index) as a tool to help you.

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OUR UNIQUE REPTILES

Our native tuatara, geckos, and skinks are special in the reptile world! They have developed over millions of years to best suit a life here in New Zealand and are found nowhere else. **So what are some of the things that set them apart?**

Ok in cooler weather

Most reptiles like it hot, but tuatara don't like it much when the temperature gets above 25°C. They are most active at night when it's the coolest. Even at 6°C, you'll see them outside their burrow.

Living life slowly

Tuatara grow more slowly than other reptiles. They are maturing until they are 35 years old. They also reproduce slowly and have a slow metabolism (that's how fast they turn food into energy).

Strange skeleton

The spine of a tuatara looks more like that of fish or amphibians, and their ribs are more like those of crocodiles than lizards.

FACT:

There are four groups of ngārara | reptiles living today:

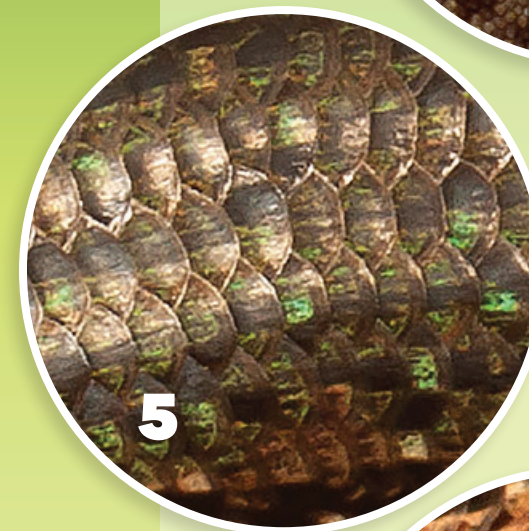
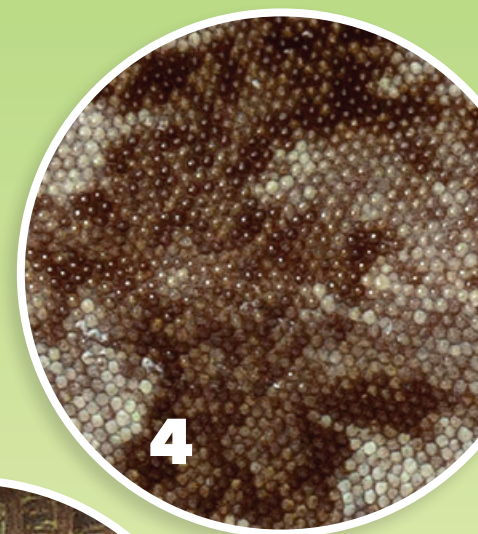
- 1 Turtles
- 2 Crocodiles and alligators
- 3 Lizards and snakes
- 4 Tuatara.

Evolving faster than any other species

Their bodies haven't changed much from the time of the dinosaurs, but on a DNA level they blow everyone else out of the water! They aren't "living fossils".

Special jaws

The top jaw of a tuatara has two rows of teeth, whereas their bottom jaw only has one row. They slide their jaws together to eat their food.



TUATARA

The only reptile of its kind in the world!

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