

## **My Life As A Lizard,**

**by 'Iggy' Iguana**

Hi. My name is 'Iggy'. I am a green Iguana lizard. I am in the reptile family. I was born in the rainforests of Mexico. My 'mum' is a good digger. She dug a hole and dropped me and 50 other eggs in the burrow. (Reptile parents don't stay around). So, me and my siblings hatched out and were on our own. We did ok - ate the lizard poop in the nest and quickly found insects.

Soon, I left the nest and ventured into the thick bushes of the tropical jungle floor. It was great – hot, humid, and sticky there. I discovered juicy leaves and fruits. But it was dark at the bottom of the rainforest. I needed sunlight.

So, I climbed higher up into the tops of the trees. I was good at jumping from limb to limb. One time, I fell. But I landed in the water with a splash.

Good thing I am a good swimmer!

I like to 'bask' in the sunshine to stay warm. I have a special limb on a high branch that is 'my spot'.

I like being an Iguana.

Life is good for me and my friends in the rainforests of Mexico.

THE END

## Did You Know?

- iguanas are lizards
- iguanas are in the reptile family
- Reptiles are cold-blooded, lay eggs, and have scales
- Reptiles are lizards, crocodiles/alligators, snakes, and turtles
- 'Reptile' means 'one who creeps'
- Two species of iguanas are: the 'Green iguana', and the Lesser Antillean iguana.
- The iguana was first described in 1768 by Joseph Laurenti
- Habitats are Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean Islands
- They communicate by 'head-bobbing', indicating greeting or warning
- They communicate mood by inflating their 'dewlap' - sagging piece of skin under neck
- Iguana can be up to 6 feet long, including tail, and weigh over 20 pounds
- They can be shades of green, blue, orange, brown, and purple
- They can 'regenerate' growth if the tail is broken off by predators
- Predators are eagles, hawks, owls, foxes, snakes, and people
- Iguanas can 'drop' their tail (which wiggles like a worm) and distracts predators while they escape
- Iguanas are a high maintenance pet

## True False Quiz

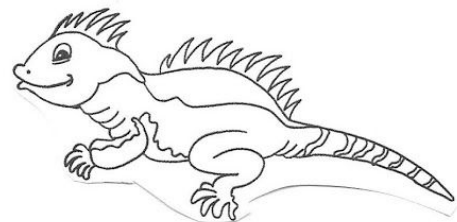
*Answers are in the Story and Did You Know*

**Circle the right answer.**

1.    T    F        Iguanas are in the reptile family.
  
2.    T    F        Reptiles are good parents.
  
3.    T    F        Tropical jungle habitats are hot, humid, and sticky.
  
4.    T    F        ‘Iggy’ lived in the rain forests of Mexico.
  
5.    T    F        ‘Bask’ means to eat leaves.
  
6.    T    F        Reptiles are lizards, crocodiles/alligators, snakes, and turtles.
  
7.    T    F        A hawk is a predator of iguanas.
  
8.    T    F        A species of iguana is the Green Iguana.
  
- 9     T    F        Iguanas are only green colors.
  
10.   T    F        A ‘dewlap’ on an Iguana is a sagging piece of skin under the neck.



Cut out 'Iggy'. Put him in his Rainforest Home.  
Color the picture shades of green to hide 'Iggy'.



**Rainforest Habitat** for 'Iggy'.

Draw tall trees, bushes, vines, parrots, bugs, butterflies, and snakes.

