

Sample Article

Perfect 7 on 1 Map

Title: **Some of My Best Friends Are Lizards**

Lizards sit in the sun and stick out their tongues. They breathe with two lungs. They grow thick skin like armor on a soldier. Lizards crawl on trees and are different colors and sizes. Some lizards in Cambodia are blind and have no legs. Some Mexican lizards are poisonous. Most lizards catch flies and swallow them.

Lizards are always hungry. They eat many bugs, but sometimes they eat seaweed, crickets and worms. I am sorry to say that some big lizards eat little lizards. The Komodo Dragon lizard even eats its own babies. Crunch. Crunch.

People throughout history have talked about lizards. In ancient Greece and Egypt, the lizard meant divine wisdom. Muslim mystics claimed that lizards stood for people who changed too much and were not reliable. "So as the chameleon changes his skin, an unwise one changes the color of his being." Early Christians thought lizards symbolized Satan.

One of my Cambodian friends screamed when she found a lizard in her kitchen. The lizard ran on the wall and then jumped into the fish soup. "Get out!" cried my friend. "I like to eat Cambodian fish, but I do not eat Cambodian lizard!" The soup was hot so the lizard jumped out and ran away.

I used to hunt lizards when I lived in Africa. We waited until dark, and then we came outside with a toy rifle and a flashlight. I shined the flashlight on the wall and I cried, "I see 10 lizards!" I shot a rubber arrow at one and it fell to the floor at my feet. My sisters screamed and ran away. So did all the other lizards. Why did all the lizards run away?

Actually, we should not be afraid of lizards – and lizards should not be afraid of us. Most lizards are harmless. The Toko lizard, for example, lives in houses with people. People love the Toko lizard because it eats mosquitoes. It sticks on the wall with its feet, and when people come, it hides.

So what do I think about lizards? I love lizards! I really do! I used to keep a lizard in my room. I want to invite a new lizard home. But my wife will be angry. What is wrong with her? Some of my best friends are lizards! Thank God for lizards!