

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.

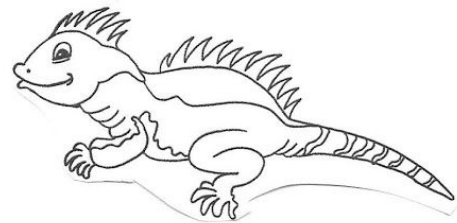
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Did You Know?

- 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
- can be up to 6 feet long, including tail, and weigh over 20 pounds
- can be shades of green, blue, orange, brown, and purple
- can 'regenerate' growth if the tail is broken off by predators
- predators are eagles, hawks, owls, foxes, snakes, and people
- can 'drop' their tail (which wiggles like a worm) and distracts predators while they escape
- Iguanas are a high maintenance pet



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.

