



Welcome to Herpetology Hurrah! In this class packet you'll learn all about reptiles and amphibians and which ones we have on Nantucket! Activities will include nature exploration, songs, and crafts. If you pick up this packet in-person at the LLNF at 110 Eel Point Rd, then all materials will be provided in the packet. Pick-up is non-contact and adheres to all COVID-19 guidelines. **Everything in the bag is yours to keep, please do not return anything to the pick-up box.** Hand sanitizer is also available in the pick-up box.

You can also download this packet from our website and follow along with the instructions, even if you are not on Nantucket, but you'll need to provide your own materials.

Activities included:

- Reptiles vs. Amphibians
- Herpetology Scavenger Hunt
- Take-Home Mini Snake Board
- Snapping Turtle Song



Reptiles vs. Amphibians

Materials:

- Informational sheet
- Marker
- Reptile and amphibian sorting pictures

Instructions:

Learn about reptiles and amphibians and what distinguishes them! Then once you know the difference, label the photos featuring native species, as either reptile or amphibian based on what you think they are!

Reptiles

- Breathe air
- Have scales
- Have lungs
- Do not have a metamorphosis
- Usually live on land
- Usually lay eggs

Amphibians

- Require water or they will dry out
- Smooth skin
- Go through metamorphosis
 - Have gills and breathe through water when young
 - Have lungs and breathe air after metamorphosis
- Live in water or close to it

Time to Sort!

Label the pictures below based on whether they are a reptile or an amphibian. All of the species pictured occur on Nantucket! Not sure if you got the answers right? Correct answers are upside-down below.



Common Snapping Turtle



Eastern Ribbon Snake



Eastern Red-backed Salamander



Spotted Turtle



Spring Peeper



American Bullfrog

Common Snapping Turtle, Eastern Ribbon Snake, Spotted Turtle = Reptiles
Eastern Red-backed Salamander, Spring Peeper, American Bullfrog = Amphibians

Herpetology Scavenger Hunt

Materials:

- Reptile and amphibian scavenger hunt card
- Marker

Instructions:

Now that you know what species are reptiles and what species are amphibians, go out and nature and try to find the animals on the card! Some of these may be tricky to spot, but often you can find clues in the area that they left, even if you don't see the animal itself! You can walk along the LLNF trail as you search or any other nature area if you downloaded the packet online and are following along from home.



Find the piece of nature
below...or find a clue!

Herpetology Hurrah Edition!



Frog _____



Snake Board _____



Wetland
Habitat _____



Turtle _____



Snake

Take-Home Mini Snake Board

Materials:

- Cedar shingle (or other wood board)
- Markers
- Other decorating supplies (optional, not provided)

Instructions:

Make your own miniature snake board to bring home for your own yard! Snakes are ectothermic (cold-blooded) and must work to maintain their body temperature. Because of this they are attracted to hiding under wooden boards, as these shaded spots can help them either stay warm or cool, depending on the weather! Deploying the board is easy, just decorate it and then put it out in your yard and wait. The best place to put the board is near a wetland edge or shrub boundary. The best time to check the board is in the afternoon. We recommend wearing gloves when you check the board as it's safer to touch a snake that way. When you want to check the board, you simply flip it and see if anything is underneath.

This video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=DR5-RcyAACM&feature=emb_logo) shows a good demonstration at 0:37 seconds. It's not from Nantucket but the method is the same. See the photographs below for an example of what your board may end up looking like.



Snapping Turtle Song

Materials:

- Just you!

Lyrics:

- They snap in the morning, (*snap with hand*)
- They snap at night, (*snap with hand*)
- They snap at the fish, (*snap with hand*)
- With all their might. (*bite teeth*)
- They snap so much, (*snap with hand*)
- They're quite a sight.
- Snap! Snap! Snap! (*snap with hand x3*)
- And say goodnight 😊

