Iguana Facts

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

- Iguanas are herbivores, meaning they are plant eaters. Some will occasionally eat mealworms or wax worms.
- Although Green Iguanas look slow, they are very quick and move with ease.
- Green Iguanas generally live up to 20 years in the correct conditions.
- Green Iguanas are among the most popular of reptile pets in America.
- Iguanas are born from eggs, which their mother buries in a burrow until they hatch.
- When a female Iguana lays eggs, she can lay anywhere between 10 to 50 eggs depending on the species and age. A group of eggs is called a clutch.
- After an Iguana hatches, it is on its own with no help from its mother.
- Iguanas are able to hold their breath for up to 30 minutes.
- When frightened, Iguanas generally freeze or hide.
- Iguanas use their tails as a defensive mechanism, swinging it at a threat which can leave welts on a predator or worse. The Iguana's tail is very powerful and can also be used for swimming.
- During mating season, a male Green Iguana may turn orange to attract a mate.
- Males have a larger dewlap than females. The dewlap is the fold of skin around the Iguana's throat. They use it to scare predators or attract females.
- Iguanas use sunlight to get UVA and UVB light that helps them absorb nutrients correcly to stay healthy.
- Green Iguanas have long pointy fingers/claws to help with climbing and

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holding on to trees, because in their natural habitat they usually can be found 40 to 50 feet above the ground.

- Iguanas are diurnal, meaning that they are awake during the day and sleep at night.
- Iguanas store fat in the area under their neck for times when there is little to no food.
- Iguanas can be trained just like a cat or dog to do certain things or tricks.
- Although they have eyelids, only an Iguana's bottom eyelid can move.
- Iguanas are able to autotomatize, which means they are able to lose part of their tail if needed, and it will grow back in about a year.

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