

# Leapin' Lizards

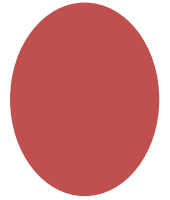
And other reptiles

Reptiles are 4 legged, or descended from 4 legged, vertebrates. That means they have an internal skeleton and spine.

Most reptiles lay, generally, soft eggs.

Reptiles have dry scaly skins or plates.

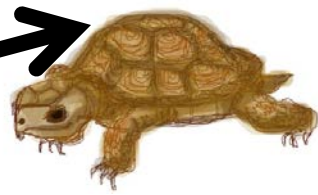
Reptiles are cold blooded— their temperature is close to the temperature outside.



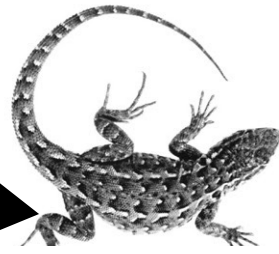
- Reptiles have a spine and either have 4 legs or are descended from creatures with 4 legs. Most reptiles lay eggs. Reptiles have scales. Most are cold blooded.

- There are 4 kinds of Texas reptiles:

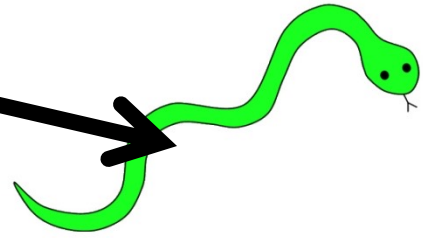
- Turtles have a bony shell derived from their pelvis, vertebrae and rib bones.



- Lizards have feet and external ears.



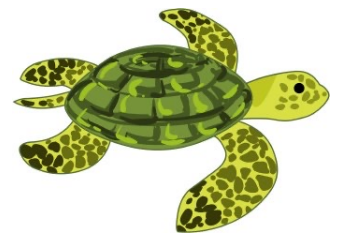
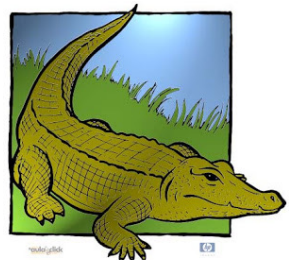
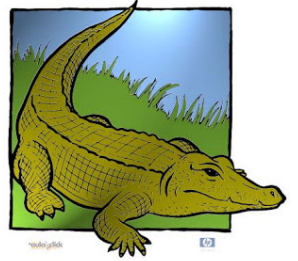
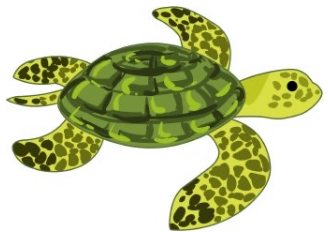
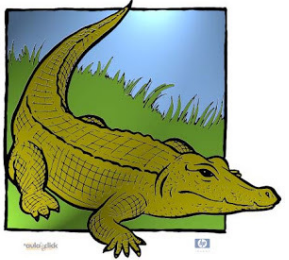
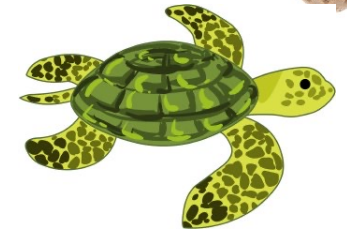
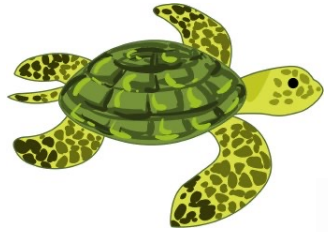
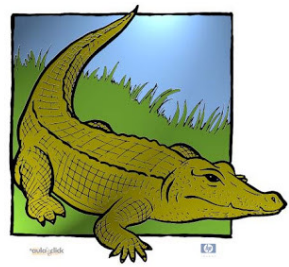
- Snakes are long and lack legs, external eyelids or ears. Snake skeletons are mainly backbone and ribs.

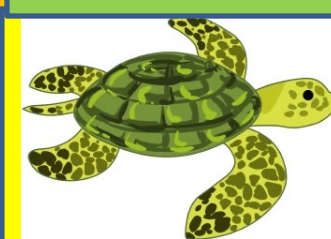
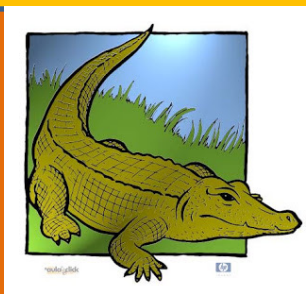


- Crocodiles and alligators are semi-aquatic with long flat snouts and compressed tails and peglike teeth. Their tails are squeezed sideways, and their eyes and ears are on the top of their heads.



Can you sort the reptiles into 4 groups?



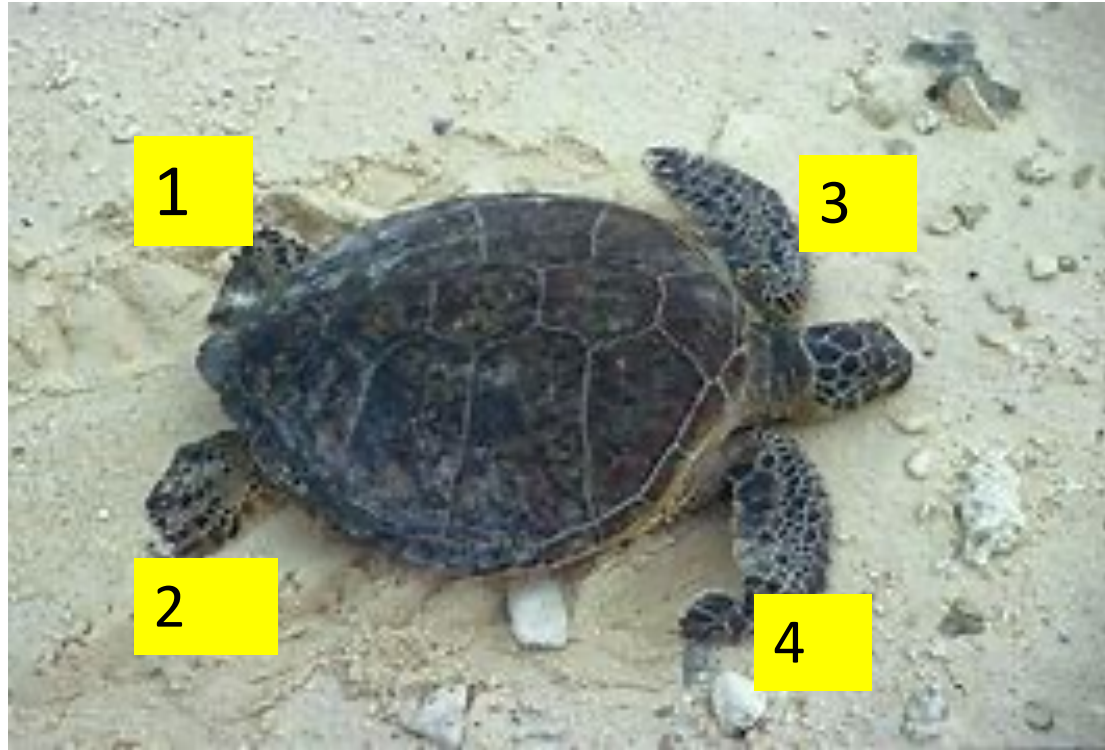




The four major kinds of reptiles are: lizards, lizard worms and snakes; tortoises and turtles; crocodiles, gharials, alligators and caimans; and tuataras. Dinosaurs were reptiles. Did you know that birds and mammals are reptiles in a way!



Turtles, alligators, crocodiles and lizards have 4 legs.







Dry scaly skin and  
vertebrae!

Snake skins show the  
signs of vertebrae.





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Reptiles are cold blooded—when it's hot they're hot and when it's cold, they're cold.





Reptiles use color in many ways.

The gentle Milk Snake looks like the dangerous Coral Snake to scare away predators.

Chameleons change color to assert dominance, attract mates, communicate emotions and display pregnancy.

Chameleons change colors to regulate temperature, show dominance or aggression, and attract mates. Their skin is transparent and has multiple layers of chromatophores (cells containing pigments or colors) for different colors and they expand or relax these to change color.

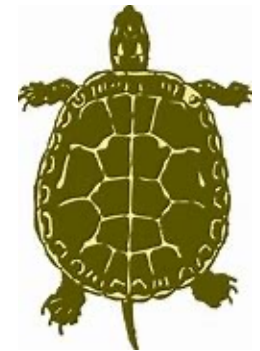
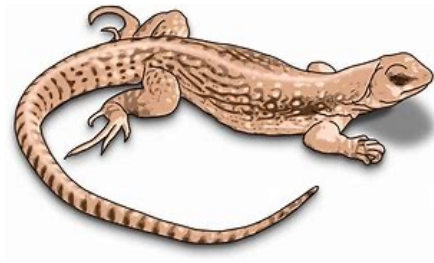
- Melanophores=brown
- Iridophores=blue
- Xanthophores=yellow
- Erythrophores=red



Lizards and other reptiles may also develop colors to blend into their environments—we call this camouflage. You can have a Camouflage Adventure and find places inside or outside your house to hide these reptiles, so they blend into the background.



Where can you find places to hide these reptiles?



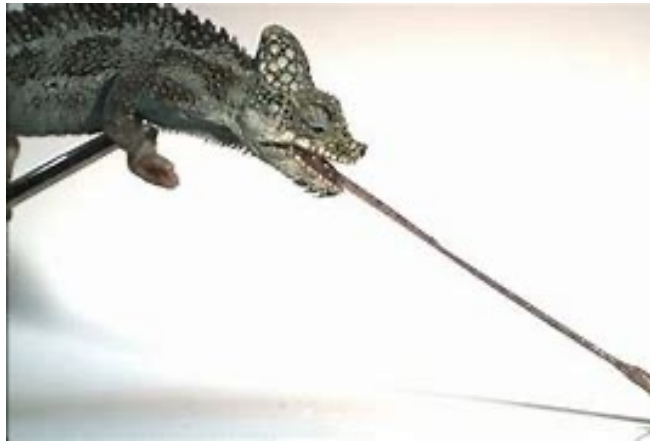
# Lizards Near San Antonio:

- Texas spiny lizard
- Rosebelly lizards
- Green anole
- Prairie lizard
- Little brown skink
- Texas alligator lizard
- Whiptails
- House gecko
- Texas horned lizard





Chameleons have long, fast sticky tongues to catch prey and to detect smells.



All lizards have 5 toes—4<sup>th</sup> is longest for prehension. Lizards have claws and some have toe pads.

Geckos have setae—tiny hairs broken up into spatulae—tinier hairs—on their fat toes and the hairs interact with a surface with an attractive (van der Waals) force. Depending on the angle, the hairs allow the gecko to cling, release and land.

Lizards can lose their tails to distract, and then escape, from predators. This is called autotomy. A new tail may grow but it's not as useful. The tail has a break or fracture plane connected by tiny hairs like the ones on the toes. When bitten, the lizard can release the adhesive force (sticking together) and drop the tail.







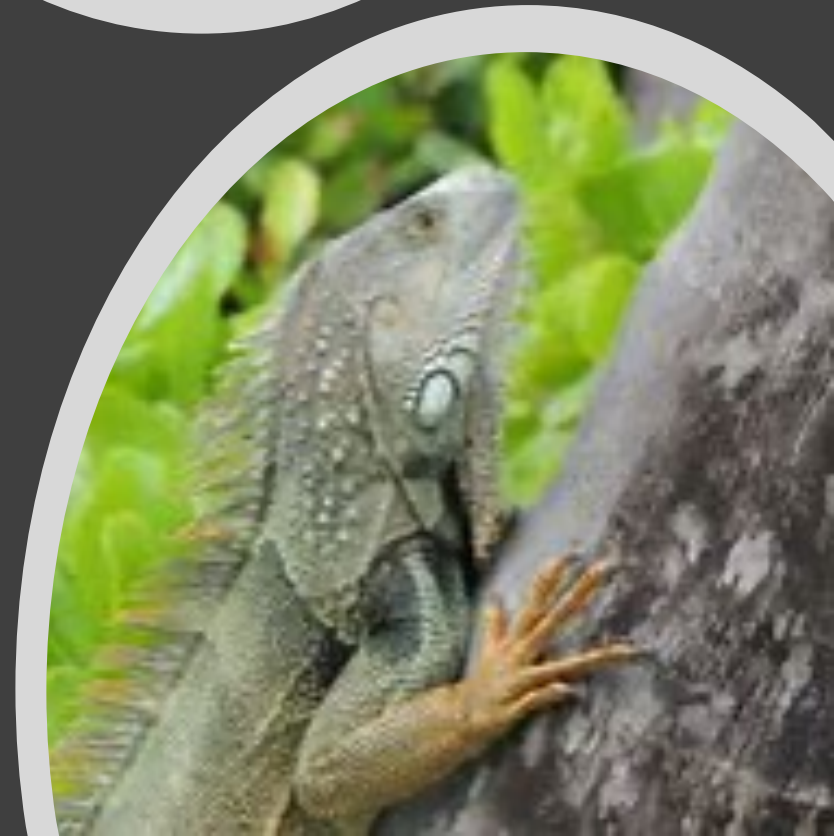
### Fingerplay

Little lizard in the tree, (standing tall)

In the sun so happily-- (fist up high)

Changing colors on his skin,  
(rubbing skin on arm)

So he's able to blend in! (hand sweeping over body)



You can sing *Did You Ever See a Lizard to Have You Ever Seen a Lassie.*

Have you ever seen a lizard, a lizard, a lizard? (hand to eyes)

Have you ever seen a lizard all dressed up in green? (hand sweeping up from feet to head)

With green eyes, and green nose, (pointing to body parts)

And green legs and green toes.

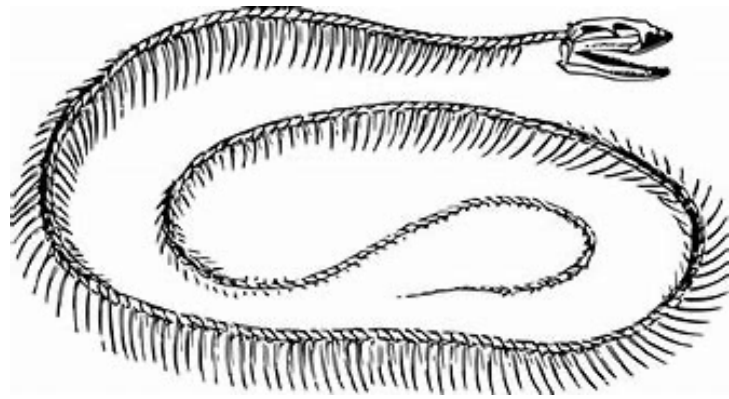
Have you ever seen a lizard all dressed up in green? (pointing to eyes)

Growing Up WILD

<https://www.fishwildlife.org/projectwild/growing-wild>



Snakes' skeletons are mainly backbones (vertebrae) and ribs. Scientists think that snakes became burrowing creatures and had no use for arms and legs



You can sing the snake song to the tune of *London Bridge*.

All the snakes are wriggling, (hand moving in S motion)  
slithering, wriggling.

All the snakes are wriggling,  
through the grass.

All the snakes make a sound, (hissing)  
makes a hiss, make a sound.  
All the snakes make a sound,  
as they slither round.



All snakes smell with tongues, (sticking tongue out)  
With their tongues, with tongues.  
All snakes smell with tongues,  
smelling you!





<http://www.popsci.com/science/article/2013-06/not-fable-heres-how-turtle-got-its-shell>

Over time, early forms of turtles' pelvis, vertebrate and other bones flattened and curved together to form the shell





- You can sing the turtle song to the tune of *On Top of Old Smokey*.
- Some turtles swim in the ocean. (swimming arms)  
Some turtles swim in the sea.  
Some turtles can grow very big (hands way out to sides)  
Almost as big as me. (pointing out and to chest)
- Turtles, turtles, swimming there and here. (swimming arms)  
Turtles, turtles, swimming everywhere. (hands moving all around)

Turtles are mainly aquatic, with feet adapted for swimming with flippers. They are omnivores eating plants and water animals. Their shells are streamlined.



Tortoises live on land and have fat flat feet like elephants. They are mainly herbivores, eating plants. Their shells are domed.



Terrapins live in brackish (salty mix of fresh and salt water) waters, swamps or wetlands.





## Do you know the difference between alligators and crocodiles?

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Alligator—flat wide U-shaped snout, located USA, fresh water, teeth may not show, shorter, darker, faster less aggressive

Crocodile—pointed V-shaped snout, located worldwide, salty water, teeth show, longer, lighter, slow, more aggressive







# LEAPIN' LIZARDS

Special adaptations



Lizard feet can cling with hair.



They change colors 'til they match.



Their tongues are long and fast.,





And tails that can detach!

# Anatole the Anole

You can read the story or watch  
it as a slideshow.



# Anatole the Anole

Anatole the anole in the palm would turn green.....



You can read the story or watch it as a slideshow.





So, he matched the green leaves, and never was seen.



He puffed pink on the fence







And black on the pot



Climbed up on the roof





- 
- To find the right spot!





Where are you--peek-a-boo!



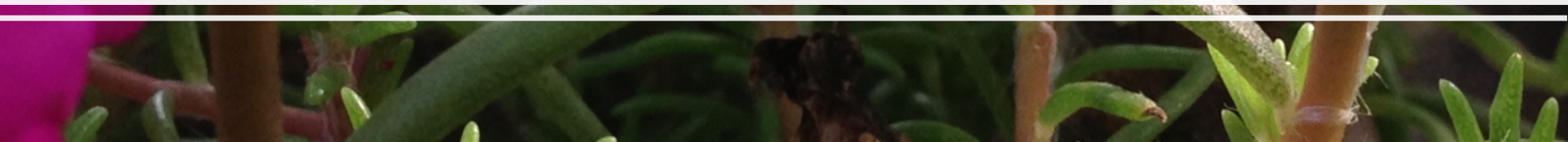


Anatole liked flowers





And he liked the view



To sun in the foliage





# And more peek-a-boo!

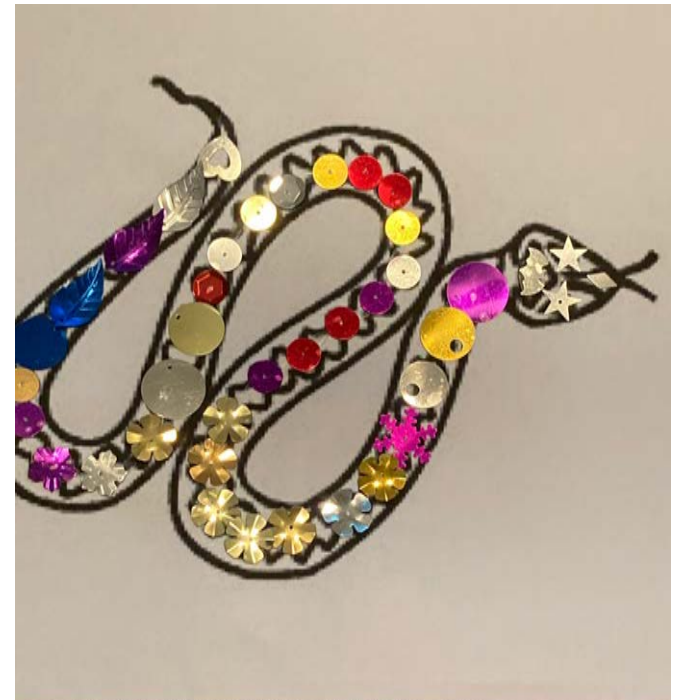


Design a reptile like an engineer!

**Decorate your reptile!**



**Or glue some things on!**

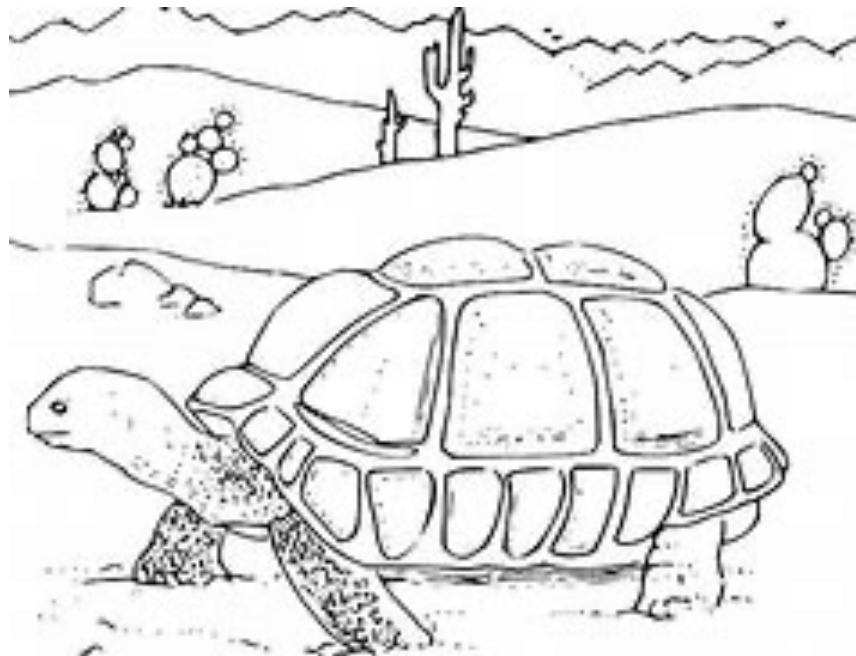


You can be a reptile artist. Which reptile will you decorate? What could you use for scales or shell? Sticky dots or sequins or waxed paper or foil? Now what can you glue under or over you reptile to hide them in their environment?

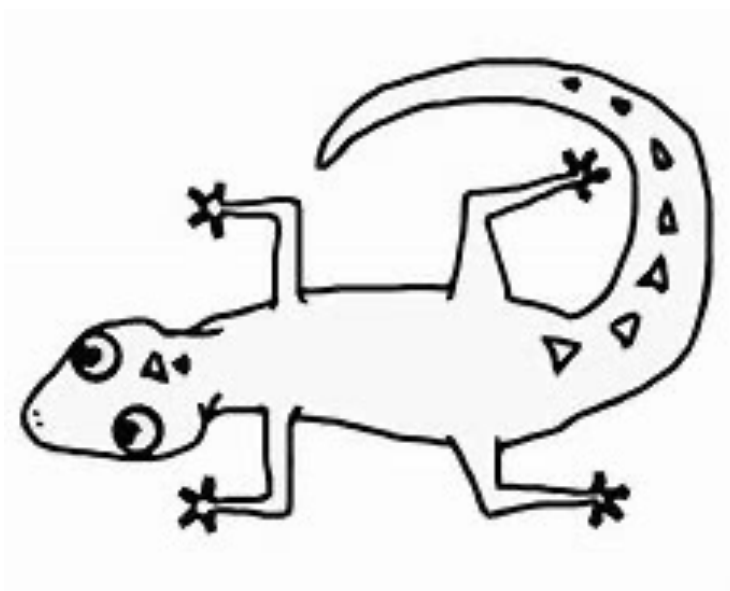














You can use  
everyday items  
to imagine a  
reptile!



# You can be a reptile hunter around your neighborhood.

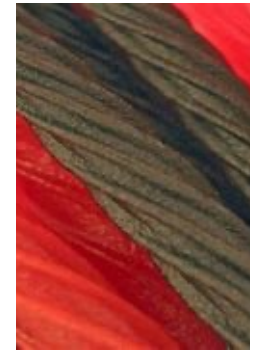


Have you seen anoles puffing up their pink throats? Or a pile of leaves that could hide a snake? Are you near water where a turtle could hangout? Can you find foods a reptile might like—perhaps an insect or a spider?

# Can you invent a reptile snack?

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What could you use as a turtle shell—  
half an apple or peach? How about  
scales for a lizard, snake or alligator—  
pumpkin seeds? Could you use fruit  
leather or licorice rope the snake? Or  
perhaps a cucumber alligator?





....from  
fruit  
leather.....

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Or fruit and vegetables!



# Yummy reptiles!

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Yum Yum



And  
another  
sssssnsnake!

Rainbow fruit and  
pretzels!





# You can make a mini-book!

- Fold the paper in half
- Then in half again.

