Llano Estacado Master Naturalist Curriculum Review Study Guide Unit 15: Herpetology

“Reptiles and Amphibians are sometimes thought of as primitive, dull, and dimwitted.

In fact, of course, they can be lethally fast, spectacularly beautiful, surprisingly affectionate, and very sophisticated.” David Attenborough

Unit Goals: After completing this unit, volunteers should be able to:

* communicate the characteristics of amphibians and reptiles and how they differ from other vertebrates,
* understand the relationships among the major groups of amphibians and reptiles and how they are related to fish, mammals, and birds,
* demonstrate basic knowledge of ecology and life history of amphibians and reptiles in Texas,
* outline and communicate the challenges confronting conservation of amphibians and reptiles in Texas.

# Common Characteristics of Amphibians and Reptiles p. 474

1. Define:
   1. Jacobsen’s Organ:
   2. Ectotherm:
   3. Squamates:
   4. Cloaca:
2. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of ectothermy. **p. 475**

# The Relationships of Amphibians and Reptiles to Other Vertebrates p. 476

1. Name two characteristics or ways that amphibians and reptiles relate to other vertebrates.

# Natural History and the Diversity of Amphibians p. 479

1. What are three characteristics that identify an animal as an amphibian? 1.

2.

3.

1. Describe the lifestyle strategy of the Couch’s Spadefoot Toad.

# Natural History and the Diversity of Reptiles p. 488

1. What are three unusual characteristics unique to some reptiles? 1.

2.

3.

# Diversity of Lifestyles among Lizards and Snakes p. 491

1. What’s a difference between feeding styles of lizards and snakes?

# Conservation of Texas Herpetofauna p. 501, 508

1. What are four factors of concern regarding the conservation of herps? 1.

2.

3.

4.

Additional References p. 513

Dixon, J. R. 2013. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Texas.* 3rd ed. College Station: Texas A&M University Press.

Herps of Texas: [http://www.herpsoftexas.org](http://www.herpsoftexas.org/)