

The Evolution of Reptiles

1. Read the following text.



Reptiles have existed since the Paleozoic Era (340 million years ago), achieving their greatest diversity in the past. Some types of reptiles are: turtles, crocodiles, lizards and snakes.

Turtles and crocodiles' prehistoric morphology has changed little in the last 100 million years. In contrast, lizards and snakes, as we know them today, have had some changes, their ears were bigger than those of today's. These types of reptiles are now more abundant than ever.

On the other hand, crocodiles have lived on earth for an estimated of 230 million years. It is important to say that, these powerful-looking reptiles have always had the widest and flattest heads.

Finally, snakes have been on this planet since the Mesozoic Era (about 135 to 180 million years ago), at the same time as mammals. Although they look very different, it is generally believed that the snake evolved from the lizard. For this reason, lizards and snakes are members of the same order: Squamata.

2. Decide if the sentence is TRUE or FALSE according to the previous text.

- Turtles and crocodiles haven't changed much.
- Snakes' ears were bigger in the past.
- Lizards have always had the widest and flattest heads.
- Snakes have been on this planet for 300 million years.
- The snake evolved from the crocodile

TRUE FALSE
