

Legless Lizards



What do we look like?

We live up to our name by having no limbs. We are brown, tan or bronze colored with dark stripes on our backs and sides. Our undersides are a light brown or golden color. With our coloration, we can blend in well with grassy areas or areas with fallen leaves. Males grow larger than females, and we reach 22-36 inches long. We have external ear openings on the sides of our head, moveable eyelids, and our scales make us different from snakes.



Where do we live?

We normally live in the prairie, woodland edges, and open grasslands. We have many species that live in Asian countries like India, China and Indonesia. There are also species of us who live in regions of the United States. We like to dig, so if we are disturbed we can easily escape into burrows we made or those of small mammals. Females lay 6-17 eggs in June or July in the nests we dig. We are active during the day and like temperatures of around 75 degrees Fahrenheit.



What do we eat?

In the wild, we will eat anything we can fit into our mouths. Some examples are spiders, beetles, grasshoppers, slugs, snails, lizards, worms and the eggs of birds and reptiles. At EarthWorks, we are fed mostly crickets.



Here are some cool facts to know...

- Our tails make up 2/3 of our body length. We are also known as *Glass Lizards*, because our scales are shiny and we can easily break off our tails when attacked by predators.
- Once the tail detaches it can break into several moving parts to distract our predators, giving us a chance to escape. Eventually the tail will grow back just not as long as the original tail.
- Although I look slimy, my scales are actually very dry. I need to be dry because I like to burrow in loose soil, and I could not do that very easily with wet skin.
- Although our appearance confuses people into thinking we are snakes, we have many different features. We cannot unhinge our jaws to eat food whole, we have eyelids, and we have visible ears and nostrils.



