

ANIMALS OF AUSTRALIA

Goanna

Goannas are monitor lizards found in Australia and southeast Asia. There are 30 different types, or species, of goannas. Some live near water, some in forests and some in the desert. They are found all across Australia.



Goannas are reptiles, like snakes and crocodiles. What they eat depends on where they live. Usually, they eat insects, snakes, birds and small mammals.

Goanna have sharp claws and teeth. For those species that live in wooded areas, their claws help them to climb trees.

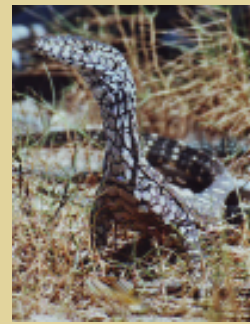
Goanna females lay eggs in nests or in termite mounds. A goanna female may lay up to 14 eggs a year. Like many reptiles, the mother goanna does not raise her babies.

The tongue of the goanna is forked, like a snake's tongue. The goanna uses its tongue to find animals to hunt.

Scientists have discovered that some species of goannas may inject poison, called venom, when they bite. While most goannas avoid humans, they can also attack humans when they are afraid.

Goanna Facts

- Goannas stand on their back feet when they fight or when they want to look around an area.
- The largest species of goanna can be over 6 feet long.
- The smallest species of goanna is under 8 inches long.



Tell a Story



This goanna is climbing a tree. Write a story about the things it sees and what it does when it reaches the top.
