

# Mini Park Rangers



## Blue-tongue Lizards

This week for Mini Park Rangers we are looking at Blue-tongue Lizards. Blue-tongue lizards are black, brown and cream in colour. They are the largest members of the skink family.

Their tongue is blue in colour and is used as a defence tool to scare off predators. When they feel threatened they stick out their tongue to frighten predators and sometimes even hiss. Blue-tongue Lizards eat a variety of insects, beetles, snails, wildflowers, native fruits and berries.

Blue-tongues Lizards can be found in lots of habitats across Australia. A common place you can find them is in your backyards. They are active during the daytime and shelter at night under large objects such as logs, bark and leaf litter. You might find them soaking up sunlight; they need it to keep their body temperature warm. It is also very important to keep them safe from any pets we have, so we need to ensure they have habitat to stay safe in.



### Activity: Build a lizard habitat

#### What you need:

- Logs
- Rock
- Clay pipes or similar
- Small dish for water

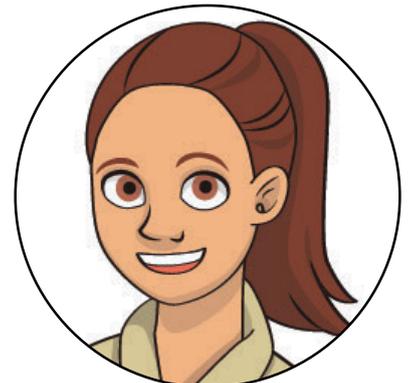
#### What to do:

You need to find a good area in your backyard close to shrubs, vegetation and gets plenty of sunlight.

1. Collect materials like fresh logs, dying logs, bark, rocks and a small dish.
2. Arrange in a safe space and make sure everything is secure.
3. Place a little dish with water and regularly check to see if it has clean water.

#### Hey Mini Park Rangers..... did you know?

To smell things blue-tongues don't just use their nose, they use their 'Jacobson's Organ', which is a special organ on the roof of their mouth. They use it to sense chemicals that are emitted by their prey such as insects.



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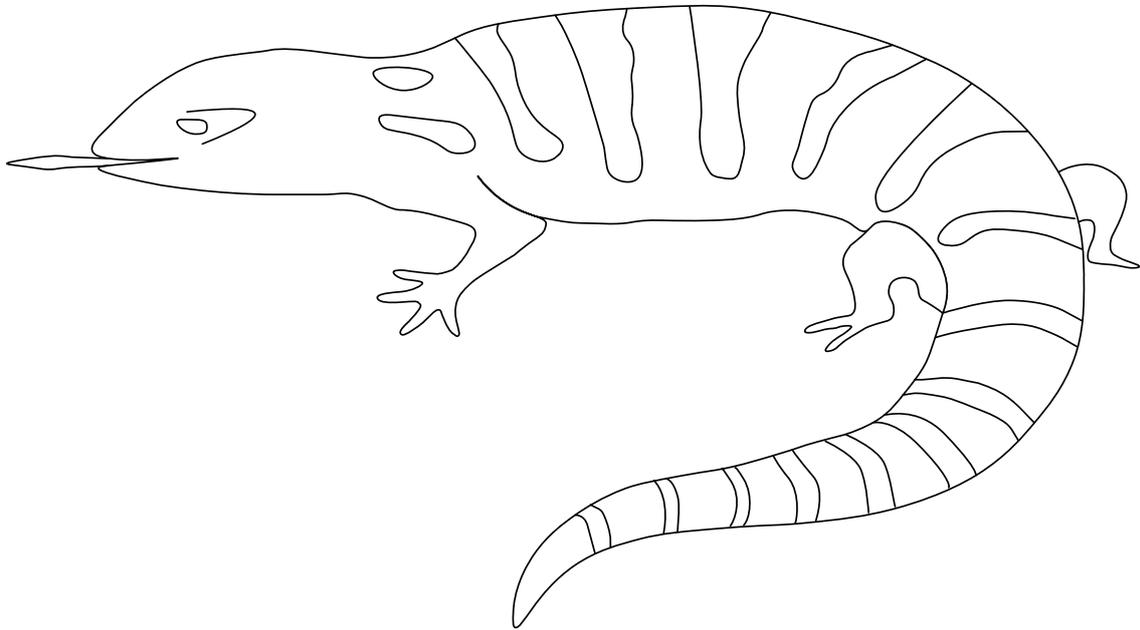
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### Colour in Garrigan the Blue-tongue Lizard

Look at the colours and patterns on Blue-tongue Lizards before selecting some colours to shade Garrigan in. Then, add in some bugs, beetles and snails for him to munch on and some shrubs to hide between.



### Hey Mini Park Rangers..... did you know?

The Blue-tongue that is cared for by the Education Team at Sydney Olympic Park is called Garrigan. Garrigan means 'Blue tongue' in Dharawal language.



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