CHAPTER 34 REPTILES AND BIRDS

Get the Big Picture

Read the paragraph in the box. Then answer the questions.

Unlike amphibians, reptiles spend their entire life on land. Instead of smooth, moist skin, reptiles have a thick skin covered with scales. The thick skin protects them and helps them adjust to life on land. Most reptiles have three-chambered hearts like amphibians. Large reptiles such as crocodiles need a greater oxygen supply than smaller reptiles, and have four-chambered hearts. Reptiles also have legs like amphibians. However, the legs of reptiles are set further under their bodies. This position of their legs helps reptiles move on land. Reptiles reproduce by laying eggs with shells on land.

1. Which of the following sentences states the main idea of the paragraph? Circle the letter.
- **a.** Reptiles have scales, three-chambered hearts, and legs.
- **b.** Reptiles reproduce by laying eggs on land.
- **c.** Reptiles evolved a variety of structures that adapted them to life on land.
- **d.** Reptiles have thick skin that adapts them to climate changes.

2. Large reptiles need more oxygen than small reptiles. How are the hearts of large reptiles different from the hearts of small reptiles? _____

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Read the paragraph in the box. Then answer the questions.

Birds and reptiles share some characteristics. Many birds have claws and scaly feet. Like reptiles, birds reproduce by laying eggs. Unlike reptiles, birds evolved feathers and wings that adapted them for flight. Because they can fly, birds can feed on a wider variety of insects. Life in the air also helps birds avoid land predators.

3. What is the main difference between birds and reptiles? _____

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4. Name one way that flying helps birds survive. _____

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