



PLAY

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Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

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Eastern
Fence Lizard

Pennsylvania's League of Lizards

When you hear the word "lizard," what comes to mind? Do you think of tropical rain forests and deserts? What about Pennsylvania's woodlands, gardens, rocky outcrops or old fencerows? There are four species of lizards found in Pennsylvania, representing two families. The *Iguanidae* family is represented by the eastern fence lizard, and the *Scincidae* family is represented by the northern coal skink, broadhead skink and five-lined skink.

Facts About Lizards

Skin: Lizards are covered with scales or plates made of keratin. It's the same material as human fingernails.

Senses: Most lizards have great eyesight, with some even having colored vision. Lizards are able to smell and taste. They use an organ called the Jacobson's organ to smell. This organ helps them smell the air by "tasting" it with their tongue.

Communication: Geckos are the only lizards that use vocal cords to communicate. All other lizards use body language.

Survival: A lizard's best defense is camouflage. They are also able to shed their tails to escape predators. This action is called autonomy.

Ectothermic: Mammals and birds are **endothermic**. This means they have adaptations that helps regulate their body temperature. This includes shivering, panting and sweating. Lizards are **ectothermic**. They lack internal adaptations like panting or shivering to maintain stable body temperature. The body temperature of an ectotherm can vary with the surrounding environment.



Northern Coal Skink



Broadhead Skink



Five-lined Skink