



Video transcript

Housing reptiles

Part of having reptiles in the classroom allow for extra educational opportunities. The lizards and snakes quite often get brought up in conversation with different syllabus points that we're looking at and just general conversation. The reptiles have been specifically set up in this position in the classroom. I had to take that into account when setting it up to minimise both the stress and the interaction with the students. I set them up over here away from the windows and doors so that they're not getting too much interaction from students at lunchtimes. Also, it helps me to regulate the temperature so that the lizards are at optimum condition at all time. Having them towards the front of the room allows me to watch what the students are doing whilst they're interacting with them too. So, it's really useful for both myself, the students and the reptiles.

A really important feature of keeping reptiles in school is enclosure security. It's not just for the reptiles but also for the students inside the class. I find glass sliding locks work really well. You might notice that my enclosures are actually made out of timber. There's lots of different available varieties of enclosures that you can buy, both commercially and home-made. These ones here I made myself. You can quite often get glass aquariums and that which work just as well though.

Now, part of keeping reptiles is cleanliness. Now, as you can see unfortunately they do go to the toilet. So, you need to clean that up. The best way to do it is with spot cleaning. So, that's going through once a day and just removing any waste that's around. The whole tank should get cleaned out probably about every three to four months. That's changing the substrate, washing it all down and cleaning anything else that needs to be done in there. Right now we're going to get one of our students, Rebecca to do a bit of a spot clean for us. Now, sometimes there's little bits that you can't get. I quite often find a sieve really useful for that.

So, what happens when it comes to holidays. Now, as part of the scientific licence you're actually allowed to take these animals home and transport them there. I, myself I take them home. Sometimes though you don't have that ability. Now, because reptiles need to be maintained and cared for everyday of their life what you could sometimes do is organise another teacher, general assistant or even yourself to come in through the holidays and help maintain those animals.