

Iguanas can swim in the sea and can dive up to ten metres. Look at its tail, how do you think it helps it to swim?



Answer: The iguana uses its tail to power it through the water by moving it from side to side. It pulls its legs into the side of the body to make it more streamlined and easy to move through the water.

Iguanas lay their eggs in the sand and soft soil near the sea. Why do you think they do this?



Answer: Iguanas are reptiles. They lay their soft eggs in the sand and soft soil to keep them warm whilst they are incubating. They are also protected from predators as they are hidden.

This male iguana changes colour during the mating season. Why do you think this happens?



Answer: By changing to brighter colours, the male will be able to attract a female iguana, who will be looking for a colourful male to mate with. Some iguanas are more colourful depending on what type of algae they eat.

When iguanas spend time in the sea, finding their food, their bodies take in excess (too much) salt from the algae they eat. They sneeze the salt out through special glands in their nose. Can you see the salt on this iguana?



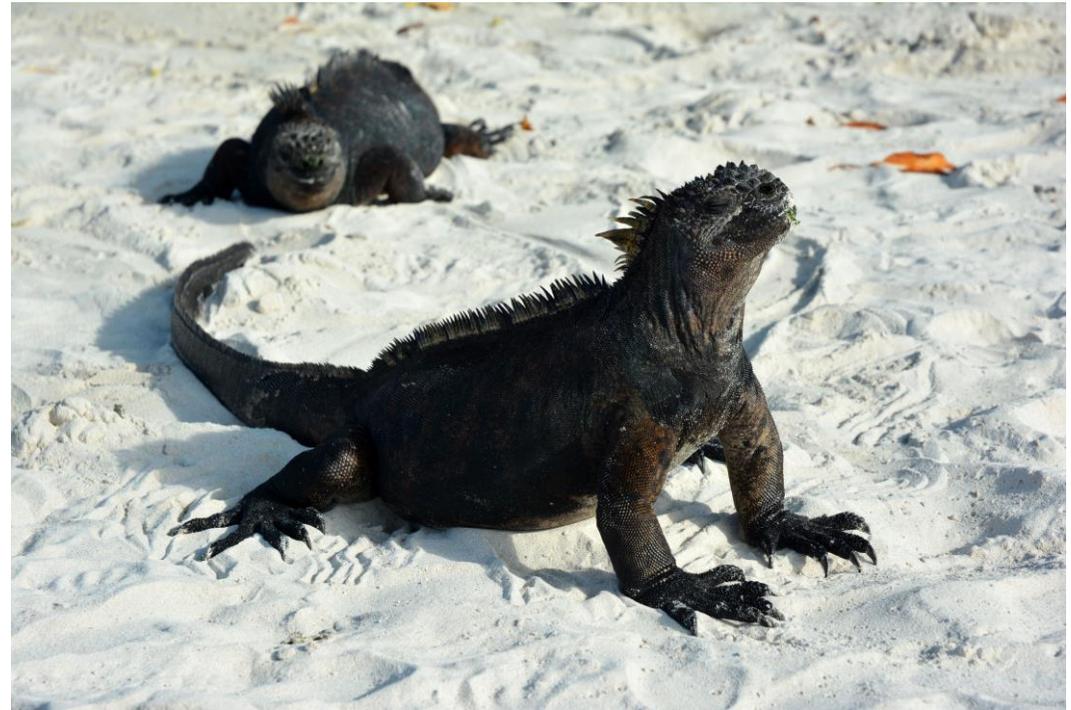
Answer: Look at the patch of white on the head of the iguana. This is a build up of salt that has been expelled from its glands. If you stand near an iguana you can hear them 'sneezing' the salt out of their glands and see it squirting up in the air! It doesn't smell very nice!

The marine iguana is the only species in the world that feeds in the ocean. They graze on algae that grows on rocks. How do you think their claws help them do this?



Answer: The currents in the sea are strong and so the iguana needs to be able to grip onto rocks when it is eating. It uses its strong claws to grip on and also to help it climb up rocks when getting out of the sea.

The marine iguana (*iguana marina*)



Why do you think the iguanas sometimes flatten their bodies when they are out of the water?



Answer: Marine iguanas are reptiles and so cannot regulate the temperature of their bodies. After a cool night or feeding in the cold sea, their body temperature is low, so they flatten their bodies to allow maximum absorption of heat from the warming sun.

Marine iguanas have more of a flattened area around their nose and mouth than their ancestors and the land iguanas of the islands. Why do you think this is? Clue – diet!



Answer: The area around the nose and mouth has become more flattened so that they can more easily graze on minute algae that grows on the rocks where they feed.

Iguanas are cold blooded reptiles. These juveniles (young) are small and are living in a colony (group). Why do you think they are piled on top of each other?



Answer: When the iguanas have fed in the cold sea their body temperatures will have dropped. They need to heat themselves up and keep warm. They do this by basking in the sun and, like these small juveniles, piling on top of each other to keep warm.

One of the iguanas natural predators is the Galápagos hawk (Gavilán de Galápagos). How does this iguana help prevent itself from being seen by its predator?



Answer: It does this by being **camouflaged**. This means that it has a similar colour/pattern to its environment, enabling it to 'blend in' and be less likely to be seen.

