

More lizardly games and activities

You can use these games and activities to introduce your group to herps before your visit. You can also play the games during your visit, for example in the clearing next to the Uutela kota.

● Follow the herp

Walk in line. The first in line shows what to do, and the others follow. You can imitate the leaping and croaking of a frog, the scuttling of a viviparous lizard, the waddling of a toad... You can also make a giant snake: The children hold hands and the instructor pulls the line in a twisting motion. Finally the line rolls up, like a snake basking in the sun.

● Lizard's tail

A variation of duck, duck, goose. Draw a large circle on the ground and add semicircles to make a 'nest' for each participant. One of the players is the viviparous lizard and 'drops their tail' (a stick, glove, etc.) behind another player's back. The player behind whom the tail was dropped starts running in the opposite direction to the lizard. The aim is to try to beat the lizard to the empty nest. The player left without a nest becomes the next lizard. (This game is suitable for preschool and school-age children.)

● Lizard-frog-toad

The game is played by drawing three long lines on the ground. The first line is the lizard's home, the second is the frog's and the third is the toad's home. The person running the game calls out lizard, frog or toad in turn and the children try to get to that animal's home as quickly as possible.

● Protected

Discuss what it means for an animal or plant to be protected.

The purpose of protection is to protect the species in question. A protected plant may not be picked. A protected animal, or its young (e.g. tadpoles), may not be caught or kept as a pet.

● A quiet walk

Practise how to walk quietly and softly together. Do your shoes or clothes make noise? What other sounds can you hear? (E.g. birds, the wind, rain, leaves on trees, grasshoppers, etc.)

● Herps as a project

Your visit to the Herp Trail can also be part of a larger learning project. Read up on literature about herps and find out what they are, how they live and what they eat. You can also include an evolutionary perspective; frogs, snakes and lizards have been on Earth for millions or even hundreds of millions of years, so they are much older than humans.

