

5 CLIL Chameleons

Summary

Jeff Corwin, naturalist and biologist, takes us to Cádiz, Spain, to get a peek at a fascinating tree-inhabiting reptile, the chameleon. To get an even closer look at their bodies and habitats, he takes us over to Madagascar. We meet more of these amazing animals, which come, surprisingly, in all different shapes and sizes.

Background

The word *chameleon* comes from the Greek *khamailéōn*, with *khamai* meaning 'on the ground' and *léōn* 'lion'.

Before you watch

1 Answer the questions.

- Ask the class: *What are 'reptiles'? Can you name any?*
- Elicit students' answers and write them on the board.

Suggested answers

cold-blooded vertebrates which lay eggs and have scaly skin, e.g. lizards, crocodiles, alligators, turtles and snakes

While you watch

2 Listen without watching.

- Ask students to face away from the screen.
- Tell students they are going to listen to a video about a naturalist describing different types of chameleon.
- Play the whole video for students to make notes on what images they think will be used in the video.
- Students can compare their ideas in pairs.

3 Watch and check.

- Play the recording again.
- Students tick any images they correctly predicted would appear in the video.
- At the end, find out which students predicted the most images.

After you watch

4 Work with a partner. Answer the questions.

- Put students into pairs to answer the following questions:
 - a Which type of chameleon from the video is your favourite?
 - b Would you like to study animals in their natural environments? Why? Why not?
- Ask some students to report back to the class on their partner's ideas.

Extension Activity

5 Find out about animals in Madagascar.

- Ask students to find out about other animals that live in Madagascar.
- Students can share what they find out with in pairs at the beginning of the next lesson.

Background

As a result of the island's long isolation from neighboring continents, Madagascar is home to many plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth. The animals that live in Madagascar include: lemurs, cat-like fossa, geckos, flying foxes, butterflies, spiders, dragonflies and many more.



Chameleons

Jeff Corwin is in Cádiz, a city in Spain. He's here looking for a very unusual vertebrate. It's a reptile, and it lives in trees.

Here it is. It's got four legs and scales. But, what is it?

Corwin: *This is the Mediterranean Chameleon. This is a good-size male. There are so many fascinating things about chameleons. For example, one eye is looking at you ... while the other eye is looking at me! See that? One eye's looking at you, the other eye's looking at me. See the toes?*

They're the only lizards with these toes. Chameleons climb trees with their special toes. They can also change colour in the trees, so no one can see them. It's called camouflage.

Madagascar is an island in the Indian Ocean near Africa. Lots of different types of chameleons live here. Some are large. And some are very small.

Corwin: *Look at this. Look at this. Look at this. Come here. Chameleons have long tails. They can wrap around trees!*

Corwin: *Whoa, check this lizard out! This is *furcifer pardalis*, or the panther chameleon. He wants us to think that he's big and he's bad. He is not dangerous ... Now look at its mouth! Look inside that mouth.*

Chameleons have very special tongues. They use them to catch food with. Watch this. Their tongues are long and quick! Big or small, brown or green – all chameleons are reptiles with strange eyes, special toes, long tails, and quick tongues!