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The Blue-Tongue Lizard Question

Why do Blue-Tongue Lizards have blue tongues?

In this episode we discover that these lizards quickly 'flick' out their blue tongue when a bird or animal gets too close. Other animals see a sudden bright flash of colour which scares them and gives the lizard time to hide from danger. It's their secret superpower!

Wonder some more ...

1. What are a Blue-Tongue Lizard's predators?
2. What else do Blue-Tongue Lizards do to protect themselves from danger?
3. Why do Blue-Tongue Lizards have a "third eye"?
4. What do they eat?
5. Where do they live?
6. How many different species of Blue-Tongue Lizards live in Australia?



Time to explore...

- **RESEARCH & CREATE:** Look at photographs of Australian Blue-Tongue Lizard species and help children name and identify the different colours of their overlapping scales. Invite children to create a 'lizard scales collage' using textured materials representing species colours (silvery-grey, dark brown, black, pink, cream, yellow).
- **TALK:** Use models of predators (kookaburras, large snakes, cats and dogs), rocks and small plants as props to facilitate a discussion about ways to help keep Blue-Tongue Lizards safe in suburban backyards. Ask open-ended questions to stimulate children's thinking and develop their sense of agency about the active role they can play in protecting animals in the natural environment.



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Read and wonder...

- *'Backyard'* (2018) by Ananda Braxton-Smith & Lizzy Newcomb
- *'Pink Tongue, Blue Tongue'* (2005) by Mark Gagiero & Kelvin Hucker
- *'The Lizard Gang'* (2006) by Kirra Liscia Somerville & Grace Fielding

**Link to EYLF Learning Outcomes
including 1.2, 2.4, 4.2, 5.1 and 5.3.**



Early
Education