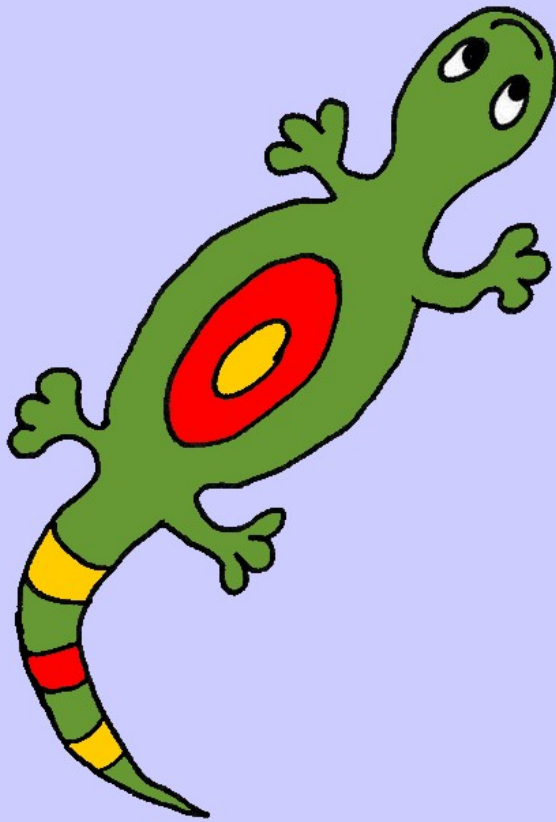
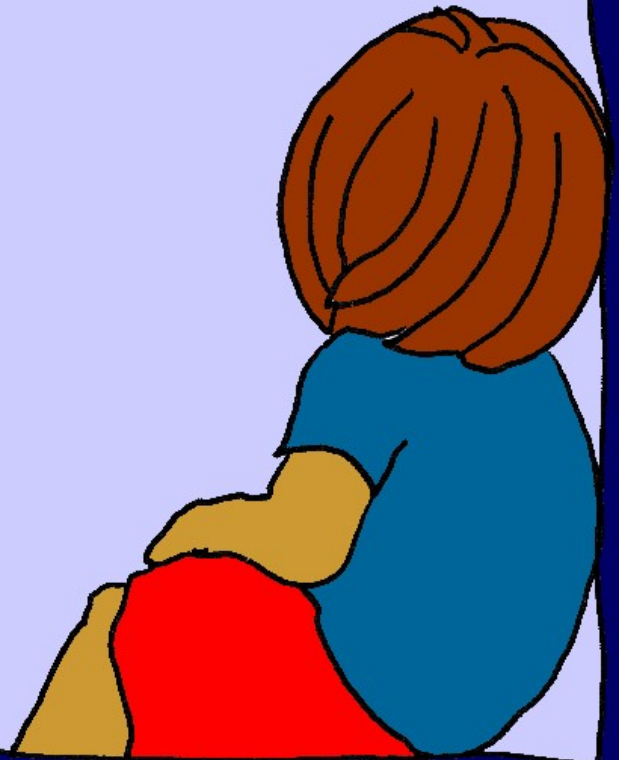


GECKO on the WALL



Danielle Bruckert



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Published by Red Sky Ventures

Written and illustrated by Danielle Bruckert © 2010

First Edition - Amazon, May 2010

ISBN 1452887802

EAN-13 9781452887807.

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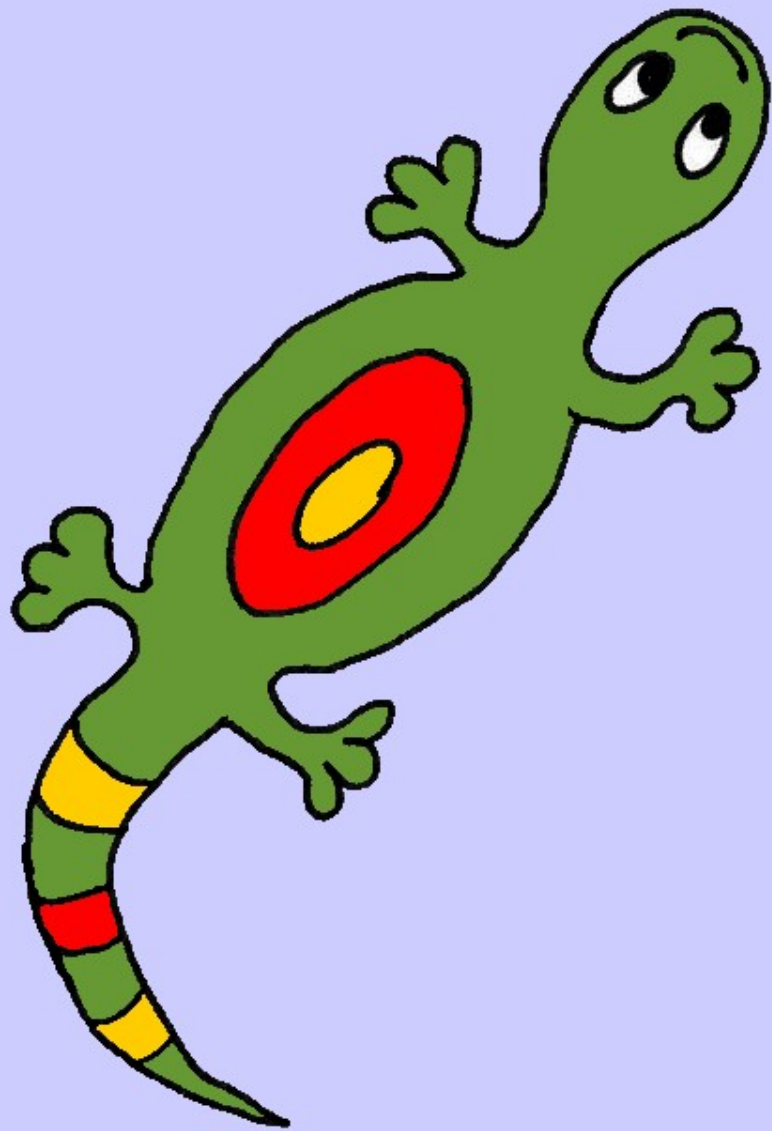
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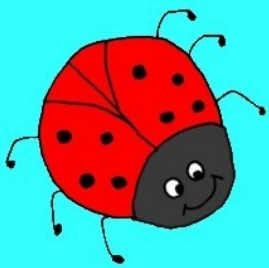
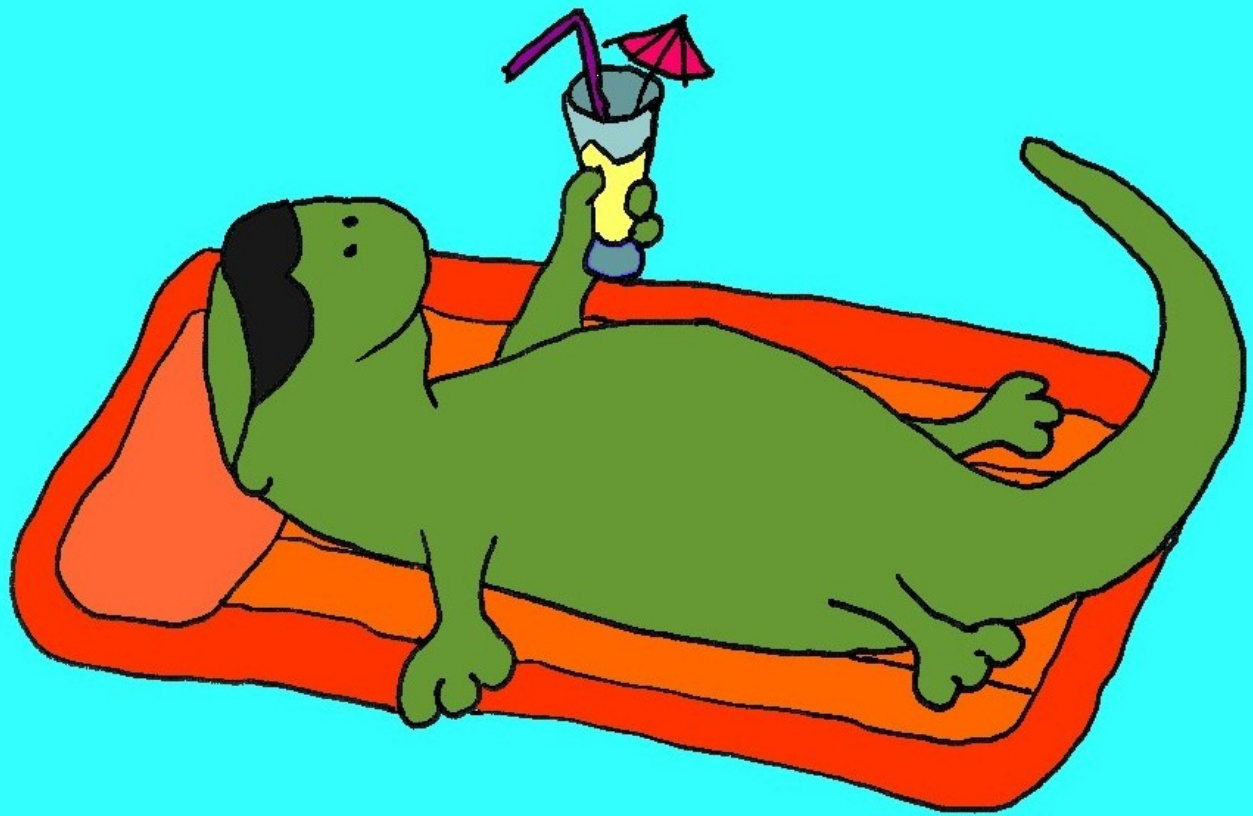
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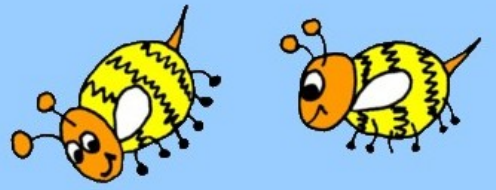
There's a gecko on my wall,
I don't mind him there at all;
Lying quietly watching me,
he is quite good company.



There's a gecko on the rock,
she seems to be wearing a frock;
And I think she is asking me,
if I want to come to tea.



There's a gecko in the pool,
he really does look cool;
Sipping a long cool lemonade,
wearing sunglasses in the shade.

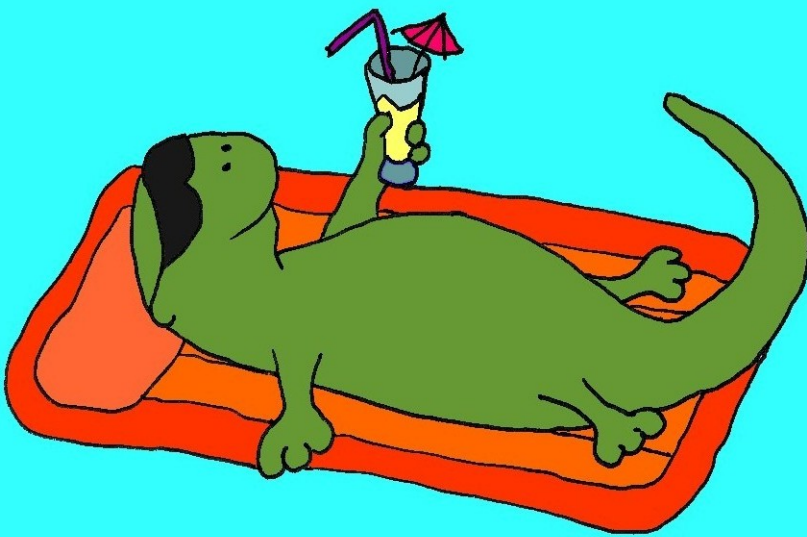
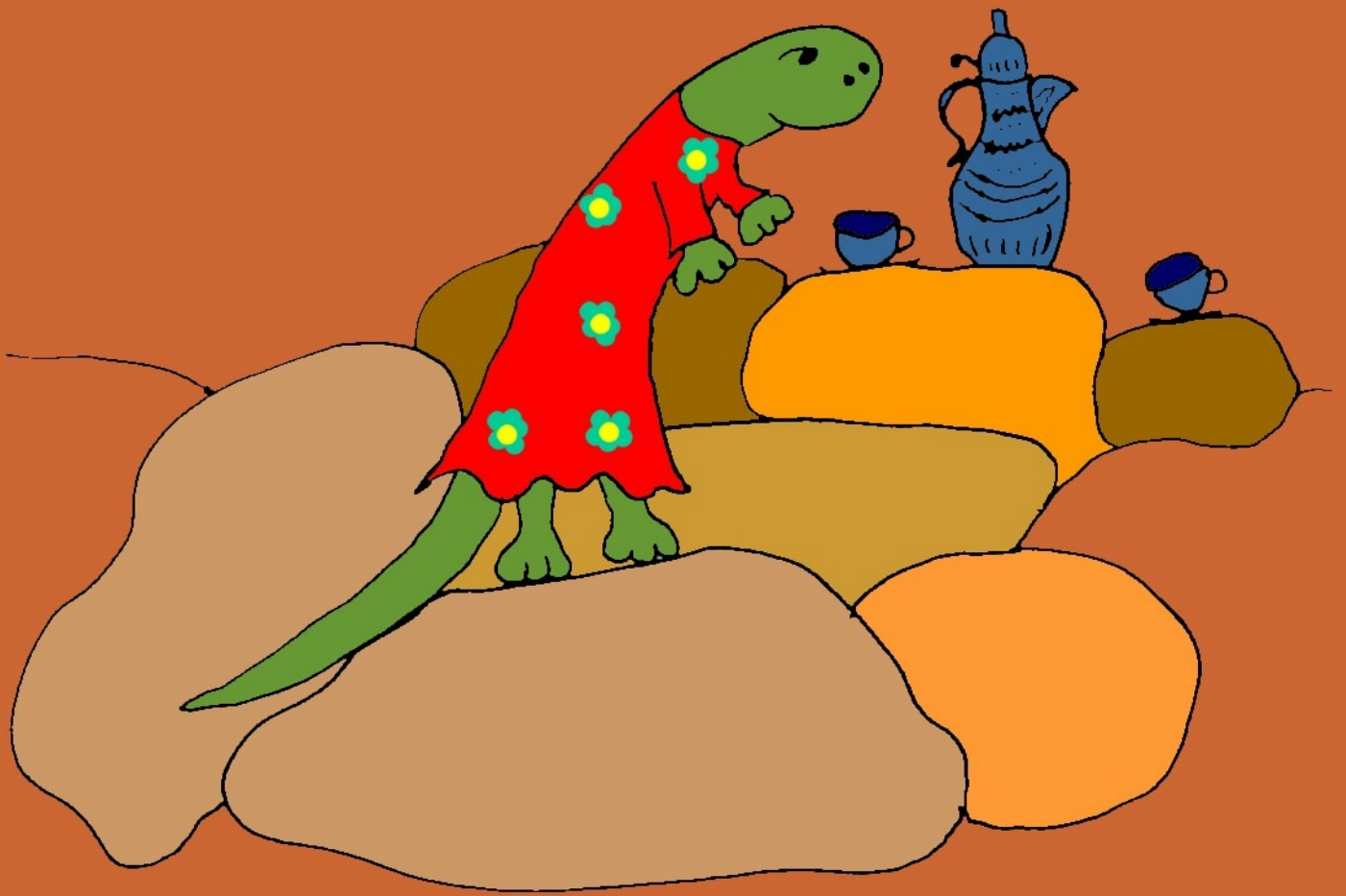


There's a gecko on the roof,

he is acting quite aloof;

Whispering calmly to me:

I simply must get down,
since I have to go to town,
I need to be there by three.

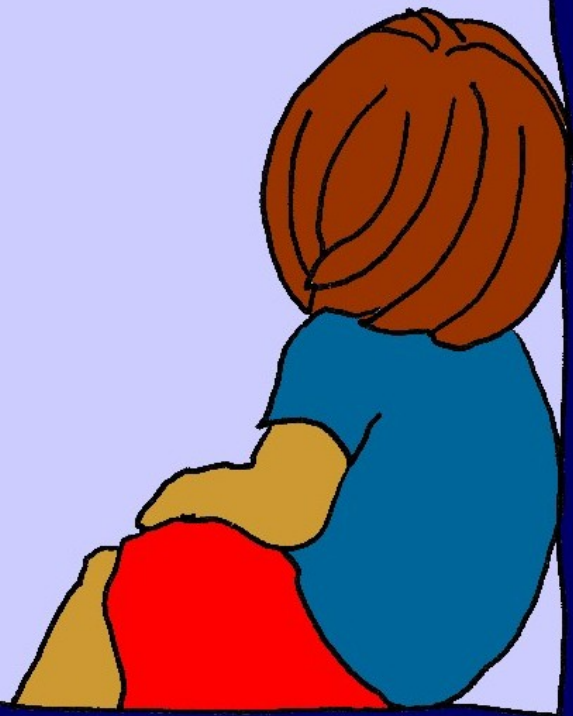
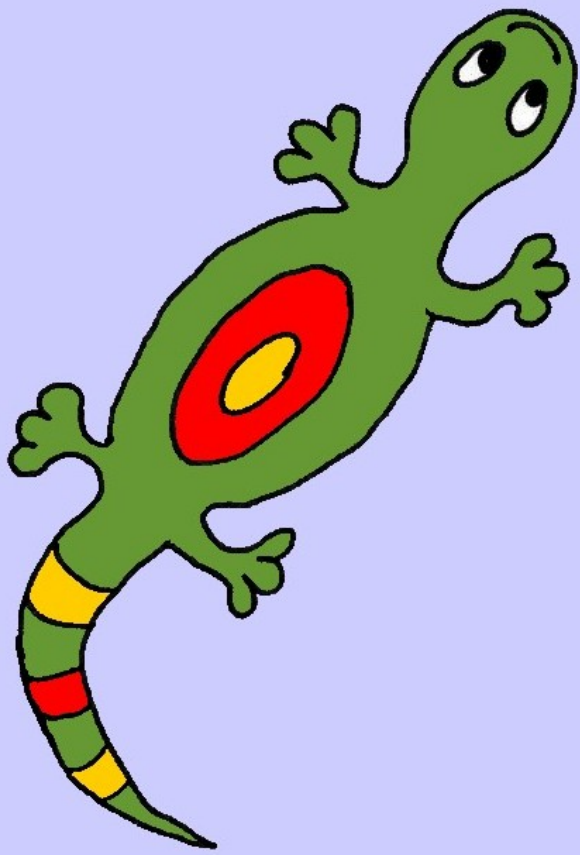


Of all the geckos that I see:

The gecko on a rock in a frock;

The gecko looking cool in the pool;

The gecko who's aloof on the roof;

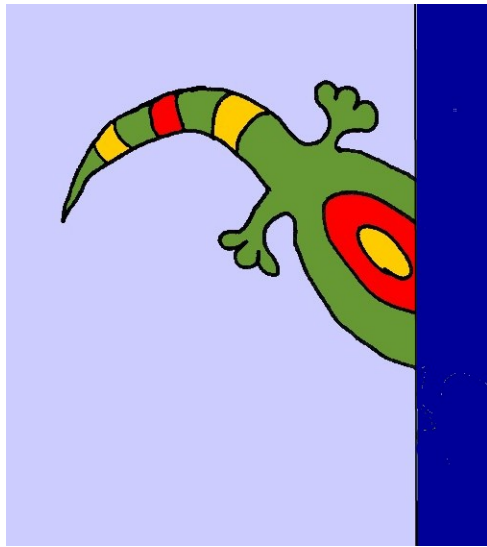


I like best of all,
the gecko on my wall,

lying quietly,

watching

me.



THE END

Gecko Facts

A gecko is a reptile, belonging to the lizard family.

That means that *all geckos are lizards*, but *not all lizards are geckos!*

And, it also means that all geckos, and all lizards are reptiles.

The reptile family are cold blooded creatures that breathe air, they have scales, and lay eggs.

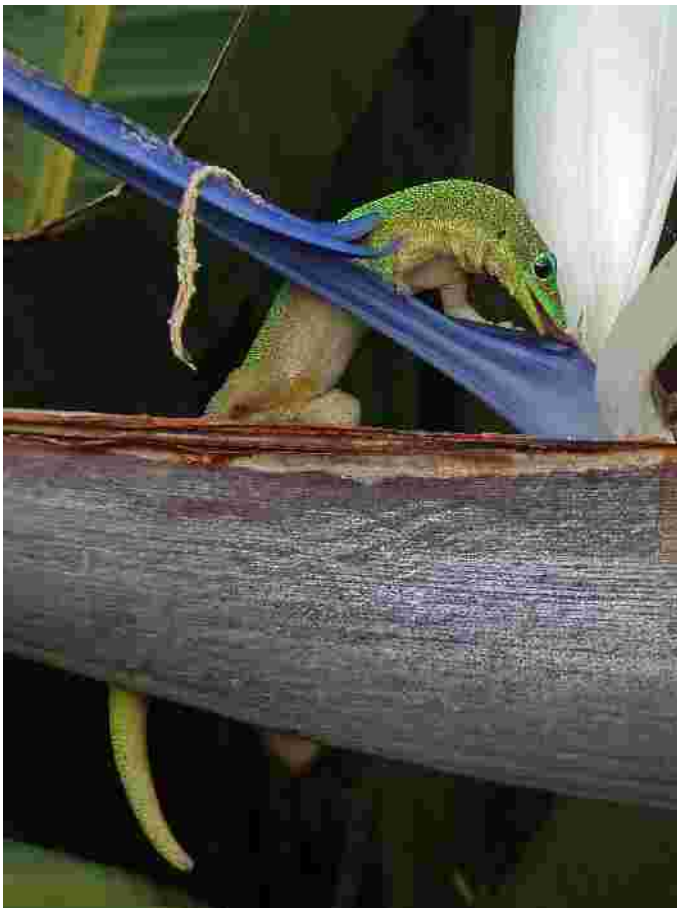
The lizard family is a family of reptiles that has overlapping scales and feet.

Geckos belongs to the reptile sub-category called *Gekkota*.

Gecko Special Talents

The biggest special feature belonging to the gecko family, is the ability to climb on walls and ceilings-just like the gecko in this story.

To enable them to do this, Geckos have hundreds of tiny suction pads on their feet. They can stick to any surface, rough or smooth, even



teflon, although they find smooth surfaces much more difficult to stick to.

Most geckos do not have eyelids. Their eyes contain an immovable lens which they clean with their tongue.

There are no venomous poisonous geckos, although there are some poisonous lizards.

Most geckos have the special talent of being able to regenerate their tails.

Gecko Diet

Geckos are mainly carnivores, only eating meat, although there are a few geckos who eat fruit and nectar, for example the *gold dust day gecko*. Most geckos eat insects, like flies, mosquitos, and cockroaches. This means they can be a great help around the house keeping insects out of the way. Larger geckos will also eat small lizards, rodents and birds.



Gecko Colours

Geckos are usually green or brown, blending in with their environment. Some geckos from tropical environments, have pretty oranges, blues, and reds. The leopard gecko has a pattern like a leopard.

Gecko Size

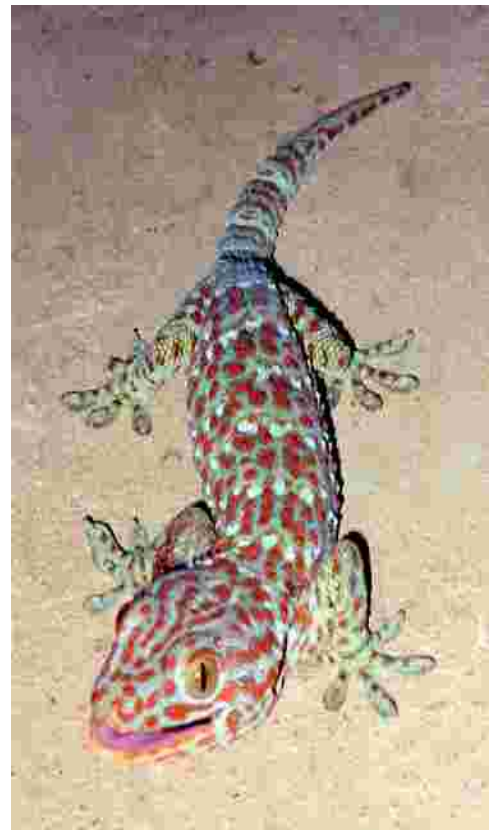
Geckos can be found in various different sizes, from less than an inch (2.5cm) to over half a metre, (50cm or 20 inches).

The smallest gecko species is the Jaragua Sphaero, or Dwarf Gecko? native to the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean and parts of South America, an adult male grows to around 2.5cm.

The largest species of gecko is a Delcourt's gecko or Kawekawau, native to New Zealand, but now believed extinct, the biggest recorded Delcourt gecko was 60cm. The second largest gecko species is the Tokay gecko, which is found in throughout India, Asia, and Australasia, with adult males averaging around half a metre.

Gecko Habitat

Geckos are found mainly in warmer climates, whereas there are many lizard species all over the world, including colder



climates.

There are large numbers of Geckos in Africa, Asia, India, the Southern States of America, and Northern parts of South America, Australia and northern parts of New Zealand.

Geckos are mostly nocturnal – that is they prefer to come out at night.

Gecko Sounds

Geckos are the only reptile which makes a tonal sound. Their distinctive chirping, clicking and barking sounds, are cited as the main reason for their name, as it sounds a bit like the word “gecko”, or gēkoq – what is believed to be the Indo-Malay origins of the English word gecko.

The official Latin name for the gecko family is now Gekko, the largest family of gecko is the Geckonidae family.

The New Latin term gekko and the English word gecko stem from the Indonesian-Malay gēkoq, which is imitative of the sound the animals make.

Unusual Geckos

The flying gecko (**Ptychozoon**) is found in the tropical rain forests of Malaysia. The flying gecko has wide flaps of skin that come out from along its abdomen, webbed feet, legs and tail which provide it with the ability to glide through the air from tree to tree.

The leaf-tailed gecko (*Uroplatus fimbriatus*) is found in the rainforests of Madagascar. It has a very large, unusually wide tail, that looks like a leaf. This gecko has a very good ability to camouflage itself and blend into its surroundings.



Gecko Activities

Draw a Gecko

The easiest gecko to draw is the gecko on the wall – he has an oval shaped head, and a bigger oval shaped body, with a long pointed tail, and four stubby feet that look a bit like hands.

Gecko Journal

Find some geckos around the house and garden, or in books, magazines, or on the internet, create a journal or scrapbook of what you have found.

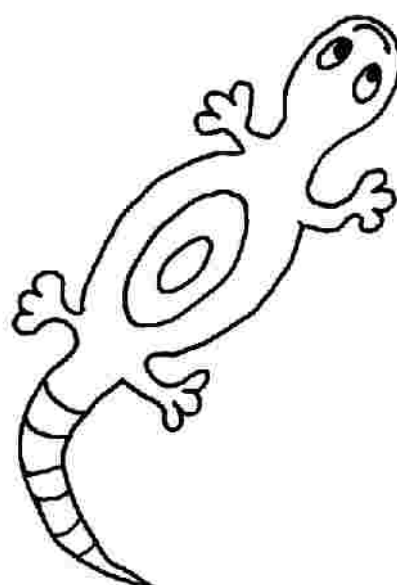
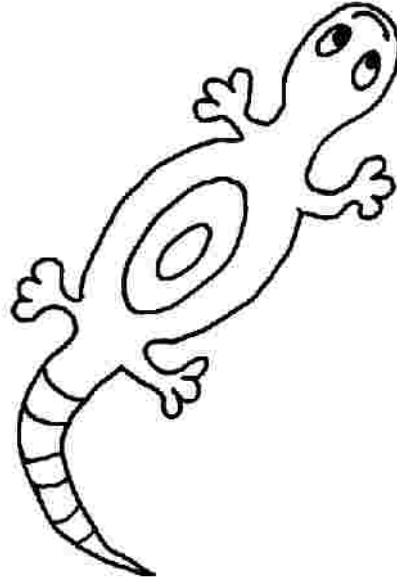
Decorate Gecoks

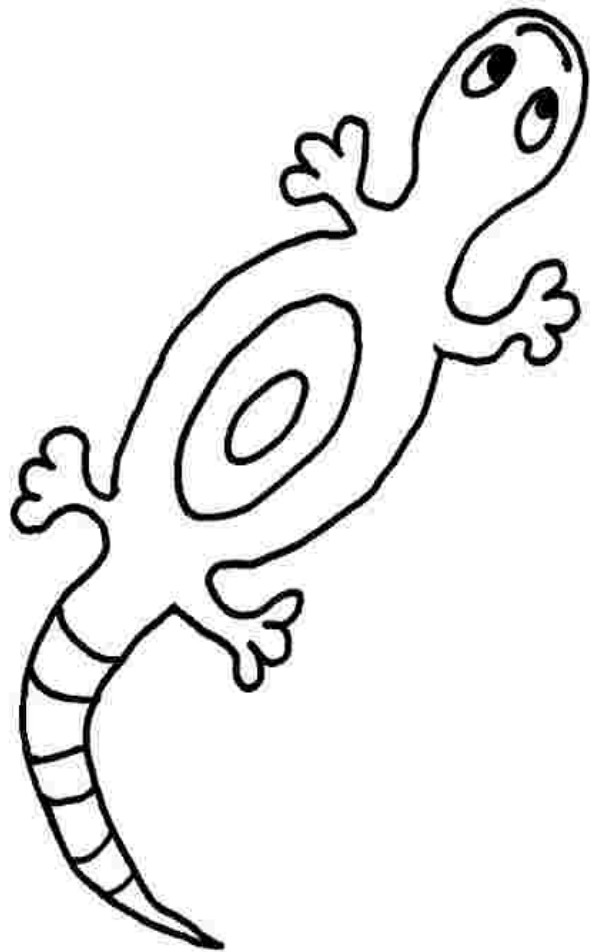
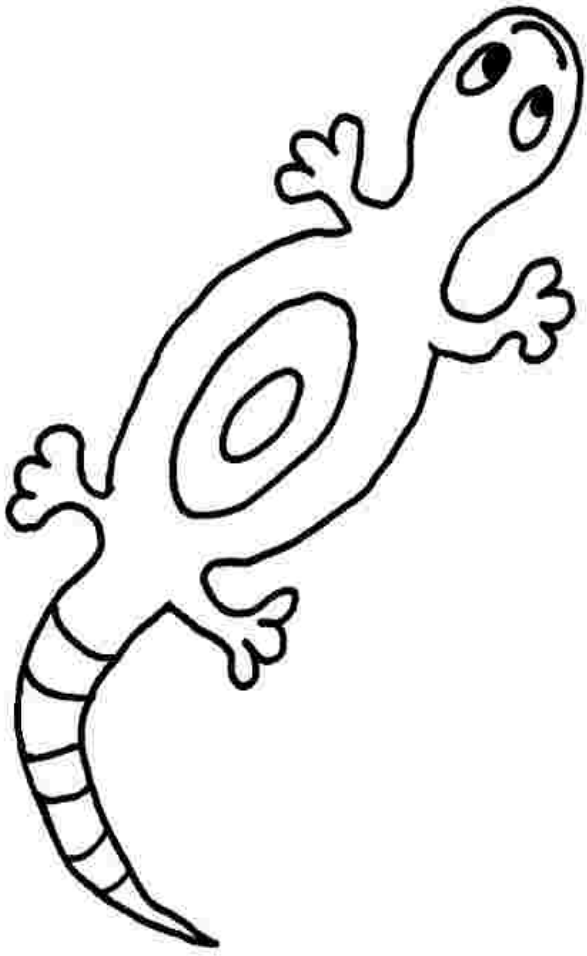
Use paints, or pens and pencils, glue and peices of paper, small beads or glitter, and colour in or decorate the geckos on the following pages with different patterns and textures.

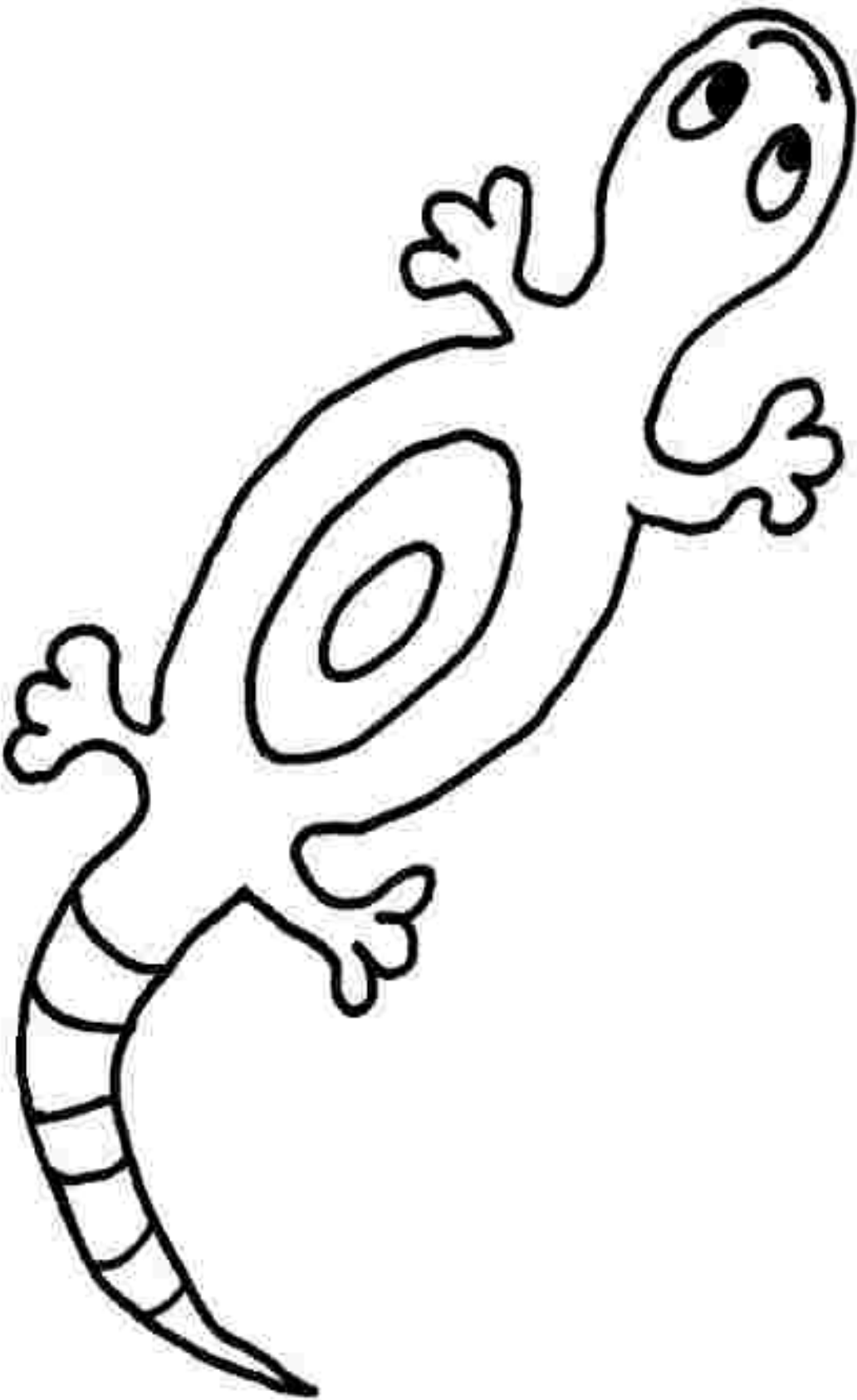
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This story is entirely fictional,
any resemblance to
real people, animals, or geckos,
(especially the ones in this picture)
is purely coincidental.

About the Author

Danielle Bruckert

Danielle is a New Zealander living abroad, who now calls Africa home. Her chosen career is as a professional pilot, she has worked in a variety of aviation capacities from instruction to airline flying, and is the author of several aviation text books.

Danielle started writing children's books as a creative outlet from the stress of her 'day job' and as a break from the sometimes monotonous work required for her professional writing. She began with the Mac and Dipper series, aimed at 5-10 year olds, inspired by two of her own dogs. After having a child of her own, she suddenly found she had a muse, an eager resource for test reading, and, by benefit of her age, an honest critic all in one. It was fun and rewarding to write creative stories which matched her daughters learning curve. A series of 'junior' books aimed at 2-5 year old children followed.

Encouraged by friends and family, and already familiar with the self-publishing route through her non-fiction books, Danielle began publishing the books online so that others could enjoy them too, and soon this avenue led to the development of www.freekidsbooks.org.

Because of her passion for children's literature and the role it plays in improved literacy standards, all of Danielle's own books are available for free download and may be used free of charge for non-commercial purposes.

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