

# Where do amphibians and reptiles go in winter?

In this investigation, you will be looking to identify suitable areas or spaces that amphibians or reptiles may use to hibernate over winter.

Amphibians and reptiles are cold-blooded creatures which means that they cannot regulate their own body temperature. To avoid being active in cold weather they need to find a warm spot to wait during winter.



## You will need:

- A thermometer
- A pencil
- A piece of paper
- A ruler

## All you need to do is:

- 1 On your piece of paper draw a simple outline of your garden with any features like flowerbeds, ponds, patios etc.
- 2 Select areas of interest to investigate. For example, if your garden has a compost heap or a rock pile mark them on your map with a description (e.g. 'compost heap').
- 3 Insert your thermometer into the first area of interest. If you are using a compost heap, you may wish to wear some gloves. Putting the thermometer in reasonably deep is best.
- 4 Record the temperature on your map.
- 5 Repeat this process several times at different areas of your garden.

## If you don't have access to a thermometer:

Instead, draw on your map where the frosty areas of your garden are. Areas where frost builds up in your garden will tend to be colder.

Do you think these areas will make a good spot for reptiles and amphibians to hibernate?

