

Tuesday

3. In the text it says:

"Most of the time it sits flat, like a cape around the lizard's shoulders, but when the lizard is threatened, the ruff expands and the lizard lunges forward, attempting to startle its attacker just long enough to make its escape."

What does the word threatened mean?

- a. friend
- b. dam
- c. danger
- d. escape

I chose option _____ because

4. In what way is the pygmy leaf-dropping frog defense technique similar and different from the (playing-dead) snake defense technique? Use at least two details of the text to support your response.

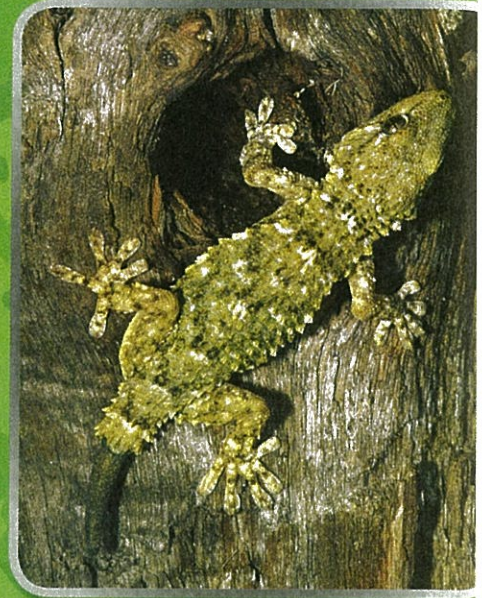
DEFENSE TECHNIQUES

Fearsome FRILLS



The frilled lizard (*Chlamydosaurus kingii*) has a loose ruff of skin around its neck. Most of the time it sits flat, like a cape around the lizard's shoulders, but when the lizard is threatened, the ruff expands and the lizard lunges forward, attempting to startle its attacker for just long enough to make its escape.

Tail TRICKERY



Some lizards have developed a startling form of defense, dropping their tails and leaving them wriggling on the ground to distract predators. Skinks, geckos, and slow worms can all detach their tails. Some can grow new tails, but these are never as long as the original.

Clever DISGUISE



The best way to keep from being eaten is not to be noticed. The pygmy leaf-dropping frog (*Arixalus pygmaeus*) has a very unglamorous way to merge in with its surroundings—by looking like a bird dropping. It sits on leaves in full view and tries to escape attention by sitting very still.

Playing DEAD



Many predators do not eat animals that are already dead, so pretending to be dead can be an excellent way to stay alive. Some snakes have very dramatic mock deaths where they writhe erratically, bite themselves, and fall back to lie still. Sometimes blood trickles from their open mouth.

Toxic to the TOUCH



Some frogs protect themselves by making themselves poisonous to the touch. When this marbled milk frog (*Trachycephalus venulosus*) feels threatened, the poison glands that line its back and neck start to release a toxic milky secretion.

Warning RATTLE



The rattlesnake warns off predators by making an intimidating rattling sound with its tail. Its rattle is made of hollow sections that clash against each other when the snake shakes its tail.

Spitting VENOM



Some cobras spray or spit venom at a threat. The Mozambique spitting cobra (*Naja mossambica*) can target its venom with pinpoint accuracy. This spitting behavior is so instinctive that young snakes will spit even as they are hatching from their eggs.

Big and SCARY



To convince a predator that it is too big to handle, the black rain frog (*Breviceps fuscus*) puffs itself up to twice its original size. This sudden growth spurt also makes it harder to dig the frog out from its tunnel.

REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS use a variety of ways to **defend** themselves against their enemies. They **spit**, **rattle**, **trick**, and **scare** their way to safety.