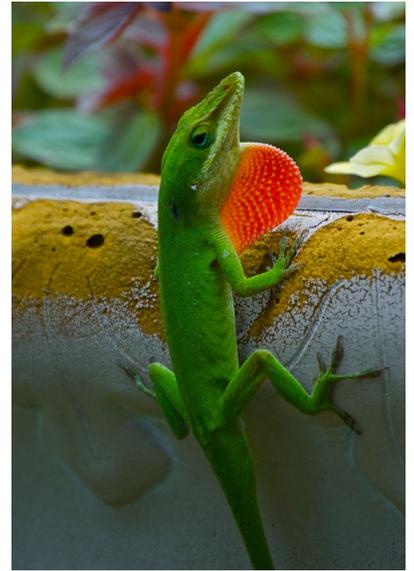


Activity 1: Anole Lizards: A territorial exerciser!

The Green Anole (*Anolis carolinensis*) is a species of lizard native to Florida and the southeastern United States. These lizards are green, sometimes brown, and adults can be 5-7 inches long and are eager to eat insects in our yards. They can often be perched above the ground on fences, trees, bushes to catch prey.

The most noticeable thing about this lizard and other anoles is that it shows off its red **dewlap**, or throat-fan, to communicate. It often does this while doing some push-ups! Yes, just like we use muscles inside our mouth to communicate, the green anole uses muscles by its throat and arms! But what does the green anole have to say?

Reptile scientists say they are trying to attract mates and telling competing lizards to stay away from their home territory. This is also called “being **territorial**.”



Instructions:

- 1) Go get some fresh air in an open window, patio or yard with a parent/guardian
- 2) Can you spot an anole lizard? (This may take a few minutes, but they are out there!)
- 3) Where did you see it? In the trees? In the bushes? In the grass?
- 4) Did the anole show you its dewlap?
- 5) Try to do 3 anole push-ups to tell the lizard you live here!

These lizards love to eat insects and can find enough food where we don't use too much pesticides. In fall and spring, including this time of year, where the temperatures are in the mid-80's F, lizards like the Anoles can be found all over!

[Click here to watch](#) a Central-American cousin of the Green Anole also show its dewlap and do push-ups!

Activity 2: Make Toes like a Green Anole

There are many species of anole lizards that live in Florida, although only the Green Anole is native. These anole lizards often come accidentally from other countries in potted plants or as pets.

The Green anole is now having a tough time competing against its invading anole “cousins.” There is less ground habitat, food, and safety from the new, larger species that might eat their eggs or adult Green anoles whole! *GULP!*



Luckily, reptile scientists have discovered the Green anoles are changing their habitat to places up high in trees and bushes. Within fifteen years reptile scientists also noticed the Green Anole is **adapting** their body very quickly! Their toe-pads are becoming larger over the generations so that they can hold onto leaves better in their new habitat. These work with some help from **static electricity** like how rubbing a balloon will make it stick to your hair!

Instructions:

- 1) Blow up a rubbery balloon
- 2) Use green markers to draw a green anole lizard on the balloon
- 3) Have a really good actress/actor, pretend to be a beautiful leafy tree!
- 4) Rub the balloon on some hair on your head to generate static electricity
- 5) Watch the hair stick to the balloon like the lizard's toe pads on a tree!

Most adaptation and evolution takes place over *many, many* years, but the Green Anoles are showing that in certain conditions it can happen in less time. [Click here for a great video](#) and [here to read more](#) to see toepad pictures on nearby Anoles from Cuba. These related species have the same amazing reptile **adaptations** to living in trees!

Sources:

Image Credit:

Goodyear, Michael (2014). "Anolis carolinensis, on Confederate jasmine, South Carolina, demonstrating camouflage." This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License. Retrieved from: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/34/Anolis_carolinensis_V.JPG

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