

LIZARDS AND LYME DISEASE

“Lizards Slow Lyme Disease in West...” and “Lizards slay Lyme disease spirochetes”

How many ticks can a fence lizard have on its body at one time? When on the fence lizard, what life stage are the ticks in typically?

How much more likely is it that the nymphal stage of the ticks carry the Lyme bacterium than the adult tick? Why do scientist think this is so?

What part of the experimental procedure leads scientists to suspect the “Lyme-killer” is a protein in the fence lizards blood?

How much more common is Lyme disease on the East Coast than in California?

Explain why.

AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

“The American Alligator and its importance to the Florida Everglades” and “American Alligator Ecology...Everglades Restoration Plan”

What led to the American Alligator becoming an endangered species?

Explain why nearly all aquatic life is affected by alligators?

What is an “alligator hole”?

What does the Everglades Restoration project entail?

What aspects of Alligator Condition will scientists use to monitor the effects of restoration? Explain why.

SNAKE VENOM → **“Evolution’s Most Effective Killer: Snake Venom”**

What ecological traits prevent snakes from inhabiting certain areas?

How is DNA venom linked to organs other than salivary glands?

Describe some reasons why venom composition varies among species.

What factors are involved in determining the “most dangerous” snake?

How can venom be used to treat illnesses? Site evidence from the text.

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