**Marine Iguanas**

**Introduction**

Only found on the Galapagos islands, this unique lizard is most famous for (as its name suggests) its ability to swim underwater; in fact, it is the only lizard in the world to be able to do so! Despite their ‘unusual’ appearance, Charles Darwin was noted to have described them as “disgusting clumsy lizards”, these fantastic, marine reptiles are truly fascinating and well-worth discovering more.

**Appearance**

Marine iguanas have a thickset body with relatively short limbs enveloped in dull, minuscule scales – the size and shape often varying in accordance to their subspecies. Adults have a row of spines extending from the nape of their neck to the tip of their tail, which are laterally flattened to enable them to move through the water with ease (similar to a crocodile). . .

**Food**

**[**What they eat? How do they eat? How often do they eat? Herbivore or carnivore?]

**Habitat**

[Where are they live in the world? What geography surrounds them? How do they interact with their surroundings?]

**Behaviour**

[How do they act together? What do they do when they are not swimming? Sleeping pattern?]

**Threats/Conservation**

[What predators does it have? Are the predators a problem? How can humans help prevent extinction?]

**Fun Facts**

[Short, snappy but entertaining]

e.g. – In 2016, Planet Earth II featured an iconic piece of natural filmography in which a marine iguana dramatically escapes an attack from racer snakes. The clip has been viewed a whopping 18,046,031 on YouTube!