

GECKODAILY CLASSROOM RESOURCES · QUIZ

Bearded Dragon - Multiple Choice Quiz

Pogona vitticeps

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Circle the best answer to each question. An answer key with brief explanations follows on the last page.

1. What family does the bearded dragon belong to?

- A) Agamidae B) Gekkonidae
C) Eublepharidae D) Diplodactylidae

2. Bearded dragons are native to:

- A) West Africa B) South-Central Asia
C) New Caledonia D) Central/eastern Australia

3. The bearded dragon's 'beard' is used mainly for:

- A) Breathing underwater B) Territorial and courtship display
C) Storing fat D) Climbing

4. What normally determines sex in bearded dragons at typical incubation temperatures?

- A) Temperature alone B) ZZ/ZW sex chromosomes
C) Diet of the mother D) Clutch size

5. What did researchers find happens at high incubation temperatures in bearded dragons?

- A) All embryos die B) Genetically male (ZZ) embryos can develop as females
C) Genetically female (ZW) embryos become sterile D) Clutch size doubles

6. Bearded dragons are best described as:

- A) Nocturnal and aquatic B) Diurnal and heliothermic
C) Cathemeral and arboreal only D) Fully fossorial (burrowing)

7. Why are pet-trade bearded dragons worldwide almost always captive-bred?

- A) Wild bearded dragons cannot survive captivity B) Australia has banned export of native wildlife since the 1960s
C) They are extinct in the wild D) It is cheaper to breed them than catch them

8. The arm-waving display in bearded dragons is thought to signal:

- A) Aggression and attack readiness B) Submission, reducing aggression from a dominant animal
C) Mating readiness only in males D) Hunger

9. What is the bearded dragon's current IUCN Red List status?

- A) Vulnerable B) Least Concern
C) Endangered D) Data Deficient

10. Colour change in bearded dragon skin is primarily used to:

- A) Attract mates only B) Absorb or reflect solar heat for thermoregulation
C) Camouflage from all predators at all times D) Signal illness

GECKODAILY CLASSROOM RESOURCES · ANSWER KEY

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1. A) Agamidae

Bearded dragons are agamids, family Agamidae, within suborder Iguania.

2. D) Central/eastern Australia

Pogona vitticeps is native to the arid interior of central and eastern Australia.

3. B) Territorial and courtship display

The inflatable, blackened throat pouch is a territorial and courtship signal.

4. B) ZZ/ZW sex chromosomes

Bearded dragons normally use a ZZ/ZW chromosomal sex-determination system, similar in principle to birds.

5. B) Genetically male (ZZ) embryos can develop as females

High incubation temperatures can override chromosomal sex determination, causing ZZ embryos to develop as females.

6. B) Diurnal and heliothermic

They are active by day and bask in direct sunlight to regulate body temperature (heliothermic).

7. B) Australia has banned export of native wildlife since the 1960s

Australia's export ban on native wildlife means all bearded dragons in the international pet trade are captive-bred.

8. B) Submission, reducing aggression from a dominant animal

The slow circular arm wave is a submissive/communicative signal that can defuse aggression from a dominant individual.

9. B) Least Concern

The species is currently assessed as Least Concern.

10. B) Absorb or reflect solar heat for thermoregulation

Darkening or lightening the skin helps the ectothermic dragon absorb more or less solar heat.