

GECKODAILY CLASSROOM RESOURCES · WORKSHEET

African Fat-Tailed Gecko - Adaptations & Physiology

Hemitheconyx caudicinctus

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Answer each question in complete sentences, using the matching African Fat-Tailed Gecko Species Fact Sheet as your reference. An answer key follows on the last page.

1. Give the full scientific (binomial) name of the African fat-tailed gecko, and its native region.
2. The African fat-tailed gecko and the leopard gecko share the same family. Name the family and two physical traits they have in common because of it.
3. Explain the main function of the thickened tail in this species, and why it is especially useful in its native habitat.
4. Describe the fat-tailed gecko's colouration and explain how it functions as camouflage.
5. What happens when a fat-tailed gecko's tail is lost, and how does the replacement typically differ from the original?
6. What is this species' current IUCN Red List conservation status?

GECKODAILY CLASSROOM RESOURCES · ANSWER KEY

African Fat-Tailed Gecko - Adaptations & Physiology

1. Give the full scientific (binomial) name of the African fat-tailed gecko, and its native region.

Hemiteconyx caudicinctus; native to West Africa, from Senegal to northern Cameroon.

2. The African fat-tailed gecko and the leopard gecko share the same family. Name the family and two physical traits they have in common because of it.

Eublepharidae. Shared traits include movable eyelids and clawed toes without adhesive climbing pads.

3. Explain the main function of the thickened tail in this species, and why it is especially useful in its native habitat.

It stores fat as an energy reserve, letting the gecko survive extended periods without food - useful in the seasonally dry Sahel/savanna habitat where insect prey is not always available.

4. Describe the fat-tailed gecko's colouration and explain how it functions as camouflage.

Alternating brown and tan/beige banding breaks up the animal's outline against leaf litter and rocky ground, making it harder for predators such as snakes and birds of prey to detect.

5. What happens when a fat-tailed gecko's tail is lost, and how does the replacement typically differ from the original?

The tail regenerates through the same autotomy-and-regrowth process seen in the leopard gecko, but the new tail is typically shorter and more bulbous than the original.

6. What is this species' current IUCN Red List conservation status?

Least Concern.