

Gargoyle Gecko Multiple Choice Quiz

10 questions — answer key with explanations on the last page

Instructions: circle the best answer for each question.

1. What is the scientific name of the gargoyle gecko?

- A) *Hemitheconyx caudicinctus* B) *Correlophus ciliatus* C) *Rhacodactylus auriculatus* D) *Eublepharis macularius*

2. Which island are gargoyle geckos native to?

- A) Madagascar B) New Caledonia C) New Zealand D) Sri Lanka

3. What is unusual about a gargoyle gecko's ability to regrow its tail, compared to its closest relative?

- A) It cannot regrow a tail at all, unlike its relative B) It can regrow a tail, while the crested gecko cannot C) It regrows two tails at once D) Only females can regrow a tail

4. What is the primary staple food for a pet gargoyle gecko?

- A) Live crickets only B) A powdered meal-replacement diet C) Lettuce and other leafy greens D) Small vertebrates

5. Why do gargoyle geckos have vertical, slit-shaped pupils?

- A) To see color better B) It's typical of nocturnal animals, helping regulate light C) To swim more efficiently D) It has no functional purpose

6. What gives the gargoyle gecko its common name?

- A) Its loud vocalizations B) Bony, horn-like crests on its head resembling carved gargoyles C) Its grey stone-like coloration only D) Where it was first discovered

7. Roughly what temperature range do gargoyle geckos need?

- A) 50–60°F B) 72–78°F C) 90–100°F D) 40–45°F

8. What is a gargoyle gecko's tail primarily used to store?

- A) Water B) Fat reserves C) Venom D) Extra bone growth

9. Unlike crested geckos, gargoyle geckos lack which climbing feature?

- A) Claws B) Sticky toe pads C) Tails D) Legs

10. Roughly how long can a gargoyle gecko live in captivity with good care?

- A) 1–2 years B) 5–7 years C) 15–20 years D) 40–50 years

Answer Key

1. **C** — *Rhacodactylus auriculatus* was described by Bavay in 1869. *Correlophus ciliatus* is the crested gecko, and the other two options are the fat-tailed gecko and leopard gecko respectively.
2. **B** — Gargoyle geckos are endemic to southern New Caledonia, the same island home as the crested gecko.
3. **B** — Gargoyle geckos can regenerate a lost tail. Crested geckos, their closest relative, cannot regrow a tail once it is lost.
4. **B** — A fortified powdered meal-replacement diet (MRP), mixed with water, is the staple food, with insects offered as a supplemental rotation.
5. **B** — Vertical pupils narrow in bright light and open wide in darkness, an adaptation common among nocturnal and crepuscular animals.
6. **B** — Raised bony protrusions behind the eyes and along the skull resemble the carved stone gargoyles on old buildings.
7. **B** — Gargoyle geckos are comfortable at roughly 72–78°F, close to normal indoor room temperature in most homes, with no supplemental heat usually needed.
8. **B** — The tail thickens as the gecko stores fat reserves, similar in function to some other gecko species with fat-storing tails.
9. **B** — Gargoyle geckos lack the adhesive lamellae (sticky toe pads) that let crested geckos climb smooth glass, relying instead on claws.
10. **C** — With consistent care, many captive gargoyle geckos live 15 to 20 years.