

GECKODAILY CLASSROOM RESOURCES · WORKSHEET

Mourning Gecko - Adaptations & Physiology

Lepidodactylus lugubris

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

1. Give the full scientific (binomial) name of the mourning gecko.
2. Define parthenogenesis, and explain why the mourning gecko is considered an 'obligate' parthenogen.
3. Explain, using the concept of parthenogenesis, why the mourning gecko has one of the widest natural ranges of any gecko species.
4. What activity pattern term describes an animal, like the mourning gecko, that is active during both day and night rather than strictly one or the other?
5. Name one adaptation the mourning gecko has for climbing, and one other gecko covered in this set that shares it.
6. How did the mourning gecko likely get its common name?

Mourning Gecko - Adaptations & Physiology

1. Give the full scientific (binomial) name of the mourning gecko.

Lepidodactylus lugubris.

2. Define parthenogenesis, and explain why the mourning gecko is considered an 'obligate' parthenogen.

Parthenogenesis is reproduction in which an egg develops into offspring without fertilisation by a male, producing genetic clones of the mother. It is 'obligate' in this species because no confirmed fertile males are known - the species reproduces this way exclusively, not just optionally.

3. Explain, using the concept of parthenogenesis, why the mourning gecko has one of the widest natural ranges of any gecko species.

Because reproduction does not require finding a mate, a single individual accidentally transported to a new location (e.g. on driftwood or in cargo) can found an entirely new population by itself, allowing the species to spread across extremely wide, disconnected areas.

4. What activity pattern term describes an animal, like the mourning gecko, that is active during both day and night rather than strictly one or the other?

Cathemeral.

5. Name one adaptation the mourning gecko has for climbing, and one other gecko covered in this set that shares it.

Adhesive toe pads (setae); shared with the crested gecko. (Leopard and fat-tailed geckos lack this adaptation.)

6. How did the mourning gecko likely get its common name?

Early observers associated its audible chirping calls with 'mourning' the apparent absence of males, even though the species reproduces successfully without them.