

GECKODAILY CLASSROOM RESOURCES · QUIZ

Mourning Gecko - Multiple Choice Quiz

Lepidodactylus lugubris

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 mourning gecko belong to?

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

2. What reproductive strategy is the mourning gecko known for?

- A) Live birth (viviparity) B) Obligate parthenogenesis
C) External fertilisation D) Cooperative breeding

3. Because reproduction does not require a mate, mourning gecko offspring are:

- A) Sterile B) Genetic clones of the mother
C) Always male D) Genetically identical to the father only

4. Why does the mourning gecko have such a wide natural range?

- A) It can fly between islands B) A single individual can found a new population without needing a mate
C) It migrates seasonally like a bird D) It has no natural predators anywhere

5. What term describes an animal active at irregular times across both day and night?

- A) Diurnal B) Nocturnal
C) Cathemeral D) Fossorial

6. Mourning geckos climb smooth surfaces using:

- A) Sticky mucus B) Adhesive toe pads (setae)
C) Suction-cup tails D) Hooked claws

7. What is the mourning gecko's current IUCN Red List status?

- A) Vulnerable B) Endangered
C) Least Concern D) Not Evaluated

8. The mourning gecko's native/introduced range spans roughly from:

- A) West Africa to Madagascar B) The Maldives across the Indo-Pacific to the Galapagos
C) Only a single small island chain D) Northern Europe to Scandinavia

9. Unusual for a lizard, mourning geckos are known to communicate using:

- A) Bioluminescence B) Audible chirping calls
C) Electric pulses D) Ink clouds

10. The mourning gecko likely got its common name because:

- A) It is only active during funerals B) Early observers linked its calls to 'mourning' the apparent absence of males
C) It has black mourning-like coloration D) It was first described at a funeral home

GECKODAILY CLASSROOM RESOURCES · ANSWER KEY

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1. B) Gekkonidae

Mourning geckos belong to Gekkonidae, the largest gecko family.

2. B) Obligate parthenogenesis

Mourning geckos reproduce without fertilisation by a male, producing clones of the mother.

3. B) Genetic clones of the mother

Parthenogenetic offspring are genetically identical to their single parent.

4. B) A single individual can found a new population without needing a mate

A lone individual accidentally transported to a new location can establish an entire new population by itself.

5. C) Cathemeral

Cathemeral describes activity spread across both day and night rather than being confined to one.

6. B) Adhesive toe pads (setae)

Like many Gekkonidae, mourning geckos have setae-covered toe pads for climbing.

7. C) Least Concern

The species is currently assessed as Least Concern.

8. B) The Maldives across the Indo-Pacific to the Galapagos

It ranges across a huge span of the Indo-Pacific, from the Maldives to as far east as the Galapagos.

9. B) Audible chirping calls

Mourning geckos produce audible chirps used in social interaction, unusual among lizards.

10. B) Early observers linked its calls to 'mourning' the apparent absence of males

Its calls were associated with 'mourning' the absence of males, even though it reproduces successfully without them.