203's REPTILE DISCOVERIES

By Ms. Gulnick & Ms. Brown's 3rd & 4th Graders at P.S.154 Harriet Tubman School
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BEHIND THE BOOK
NEW YORK
Our mission is to develop engaged readers and writers in underserved NYC public schools by designing and delivering programs that are multi-disciplinary, culturally responsive, and promote deeper connections to books and their authors.

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CLASS 3/4-203 WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE THIS BOOK TO ALL OF THE WILD ANIMALS AND REPTILES THAT HAVE DIED IN ALL OF THE WILDFIRES IN AMERICA & Australia.
Have you ever considered that the perfect family pet could be...a snake?! Through this comprehensive project, students in Class 3/4-203 have been convinced that these scaly, sometimes scary, reptiles are really very lovable.

The wonders of snakes were featured first in classroom visits from Roxie Munro, the author and illustrator of *Slithery Snakes*. Roxie shared how she conducted research on snakes to write a book that piques the curiosity of readers through life-like illustrations and fascinating facts.

To observe live snakes in a fairly natural habitat, the class took a trip to the reptile exhibit at the Bronx Zoo. Taking careful research notes, the students observed what reptiles need to live and even got to see some of them eating! For an extra-special treat, back in their classroom, students were visited by several reptiles and their professional handler from The Nature Company. The class learned many new facts about reptiles and were able to observe them up close and then touch a live snake, lizard, and turtle. Behind the Book research coaches came in next to help the students explore more about the reptile of their choice so that they had plenty of information to persuade others about the excellence of their animal.

To wrap up the project and combine all that the class had learned about reptiles, Behind the Book teaching artist Candice Humphries helped students create individual pet posters filled with fun facts and captivating illustrations. Class 3/4-203 is certain that after reading all about these amazing reptiles, you will want to adopt all of them as pets!
LEATHER PET BET
BY ADRIEL

What are you looking for as a pet? Because you are in the right place! Turtles are super super interesting!
Leatherback turtles have a shell made out of cartilage. Cartilage is a material that’s on your ears! And these turtles are interesting because unlike other turtles, they have a shell that is both hard and soft. Another reason is turtles use their flippers to swim. Some turtles like the Leatherback use its front flippers up and down. Also, their back flippers go side to side.

Turtles are nice and don’t make a lot of noise. Leatherback turtles can grow up to 7 feet long and 2,000 pounds. And make weird noises, but most turtles are small and aren’t that loud. Turtles eat seeds, fruit, and seaweed. You can get these food for cheap and their food are everywhere. It needs food, water, and it needs to breathe. They also need sunlight. They will need to be off land and in water. It needs to feel like it is in its own habitat. A turtle lives in a tank with food and water. Your turtle should feel like it is in its own home. You could watch it swim, or when it gets too big, you will have to let it go in the ocean. You can also research it and learn what it needs and keep track of what it does every day.

A turtle would make a great pet because it’s super cool. It is not hard to take care of because the food is cheap. They also have colorful shells. And that’s why you should get a turtle!!!
The Snake Makes a perfect pet because it make noises to tell someone is close by.

My favorite part of the Snake is that it slithers. I learned from the field trip that I saw a Snake eating a rabbit. The Copperhead flicks its tongue in and out because it sucks the rabbit’s blood. This tree boa keeps its eyes open and some snakes hibernate. The Snake eats a rabbit because they are hungry and they are carnivore. They need to lie in the sun because it needs to be warm. It will need food and friends and leaves to live in the oceans. And well some of them live there. There called water snakes. You can have fun with your pet by playing disappear in the forest and play finding the toy. My reptile will make a perfect pet because you can have fun by playing slither tag the feet.
Are you looking for the best pet ever? Well, here you go! It's a turtle! The first reason they make the best pets is that they eat plants. And they can live underwater. Turtles move super slow. You should feed your turtles plants and vegetables. Turtles need water, food, plants, and leaves. Turtles live underwater and on land. You can play blocks with him/her. I hope your next pet is a turtle because they really are the best pets ever.
TURTLES
BY JULIAN

If your looking for a new pet I got
the best pet for you. Its a turtle!
My Turtle is interesting because there
shells are beautiful colors. Turtles
have claws too.

Turtles are cold blooded they
need a heat light in there tank.
Turtles make good pets they can
live a long time and they are
quiet. Turtles eat worms and lettuce.

Turtles need food and sunlight.
They also need water to survive.
To make a turtle feel at home they
need a tank with rocks and food.

To have fun with my pet I would
talk to him and give him a name.
Turtles are the best pets because
they are quiet cute and there
shells have different colors. It doesn’t
cost a lot to have a turtle.
Snakes
By Kinsley

Shark cant catch the Bumble Bee snake because he is too sneaky. Sharks think it's the sun but it really the Bumble Bee playing tricks. The Bumble Bee can smell what the shark is cooking from a mile away. The Bumble Bee chills underwater for 2 hours. The Bumble Bee can eat rats, chicken, bird fish, whom water little hiding places, sun. I want my pet to feel like he is living in Heaven. I will buy a tank, plants, and a friendly spider. I'll buy a sonic outfit and a toy Dr. Eggman to play Sonic vs. Dr. Eggman. The Bumble Bee will help me when there is a shark around. In the meantime, we will play in the pool.
Hi my name is Larry

I will make a great pet because I like to live in warm places and my skin can be smooth and shiny.

I like to live in warm places and my skin can be smooth and shiny.

I am a lizard and my name is Larry.

My lizard will be a great pet because they are very interesting things about it.

Lizards are awesome because they can be a lot of things and they are all different animals like spiders and insects. They also need to be fed every day. Larry needs to eat fish and green vegetables and small animals like spiders and insects. I will have fun with my pet lizard and I will also let him run around the house.

To make your lizard pet feel happy it will need a warm future. I will give him his food and help him with respect and be talkative.

I also need to feed my lizard with the correct food and keep the warm place. I think my lizard is interesting because most live in warm places like the grass.

Lizards are awesome and they can be a great pet and my pet is interesting.
TURTLES
BY MOUSSA

People have to be brave to have a pet. Turtles have sharp claws. They protect their families.

Turtles are cold-blooded. Turtles eat leaves. Turtles need food. Turtles need a home to be happy.

Some turtles breathe in water. They protect their owners.
LIZARDS
BY NATALIA

If you want a interesting pet get a lizard!! Are you thinking what kind of lizard get a gecko lizard!! A gecko is good at camouflage, a gecko would use camouflage to not get ate by prey. Gecko special hairs make their feet stick so they can stick on surfaces, also they can walk on walls and cells. The gecko will need sun because it like desert. Good someone to keep it enthralling, like a person owner or guardian, to have fun with your pet let its skin smooth and turn black. A gecko lizard would warm up in the sun, make its skin smooth. If egg or fewer it is a perfect pet to kill moths, too keep it from getting cold. Gecko are not venomous because they are friendly, they also do not bite. You can tell by the noise they make or their color so they are tell you to stay away. A gecko lizard eats flies and drink water. Gecko needs healthy food and water. Lace capies, lettuce, make sure you feed the gecko one apple or lettuce at a time.
LIZARD
BY RILEE

Would you like a lizard for a pet? The lizard needs food to stay alive and these meat eaters. Lizards blend in to branches and sand and rocks and brick walls and they blend in to be safe. Lizards stay in the sun to stay warm. The lizard eats mice meat. The lizard needs water and food to survive and I will put a light in his cage to be warm. The lizard will need a cage, you can play hide and seek with the lizard in your house and watch TV together. A lizard could be a good pet because it will make you happy.
Hey My Name is Sydney Jr.

I'm 5 years old.
I like to eat rats.
I will make sure I eat just the right amount.

and I love to play chess.

Snakes

If you looking for a pet you should get a snake. My snake is interesting because it teeth is blue. Snakes are cold blooded they need a heat light in there tanks. Snake make good pets because they can eat rats for you and they can live a long time. Snakes need food, air and sun light, water to survive. To make snakes feel at home you need soft floors, food, plants. To have fun with my pet I would talk to him and give him a name.

Snakes are quiet cool and there scales have different colors. It doesn’t cost a lot to have a snake.
Above: A class trip to the reptile exhibit at the Bronx Zoo
Roxie Munro is the author/illustrator of more than 40 nonfiction books for children. Her books have been translated into French, Italian, Dutch, Chinese, and Japanese.

Roxie was born in Texas, and grew up in southern Maryland, by the Chesapeake Bay. At the age of six, she won first prize in a county-wide contest for a painting of a bowl of fruit. She has been a working artist all her life, for a while freelancing in Washington DC as a television courtroom artist. Clients have included CBS, the Washington Post, and the Associated Press. Fourteen of her paintings have been published as covers of The New Yorker magazine.

Roxie studied at the University of Maryland, the Maryland Institute College of Art (Baltimore), earned a BFA in Painting from the University of Hawaii, attended graduate school at Ohio University (Athens), and received a Yaddo Fellowship in Painting. She lectures in museums, schools, libraries, conferences, and teaches in workshops.

Many oils and watercolors are views from the roof of her sky-lighted loft studio in Long Island City, New York, just across the East River from her home in Manhattan where she lives with her husband, Swedish writer/photographer, Bo Zaunders.
ABOUT THE
STUDENT AUTHORS

Class 3/4-203 is made up of curious, intelligent and kind students who enjoy learning about their world and the amazing creatures that inhabit it.

ABOUT BEHIND THE BOOK

Behind the Book creates intensive learning and empowering experiences for New York City public school students. Working with classes from Pre-K through the 12th grade, Behind the Book brings authors and their books into individual classrooms to build literacy skills and create a community of lifelong readers and writers. Each of a series of workshops is designed to bring books to life to inspire and engage the students. Behind the Book programs are part of the class curriculum and meet the Common Core Learning Standards.
COMMON CORE LEARNING STANDARDS ADDRESSED

READING
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1
Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.2
Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7
Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

WRITING
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2.A
Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2.B
Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.5
With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.
WE BRING AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS INTO THE CLASSROOM TO MAKE READING AND WRITING AN AWESOME EXPERIENCE!

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