All About Geckos

We can't really tell you <u>all</u> about geckos because there are over 1,000 different kinds! These different "kinds" are called <u>species</u>, and people who study reptiles (<u>herpetologists</u>) have divided these <u>species</u> into 2 main groups (based on their *eyes*, of all things):

- Group 1 has fixed eyelids (they cannot blink, just like snakes.)
- Group 2 has movable eyelids (they can blink, just like people.)

Geckos have very sharp eyesight, and their eyes tell us a lot about them. For example:

- If a gecko has round pupils (like human eyes), it means that the gecko is <u>diurnal</u> (most active during the day.)
- If the gecko has vertical pupils (that go up and down like a cat's), it means that the gecko is <u>nocturnal</u> (most active at night.)

Where Do Geckos Live?

Geckos are found mostly in deserts, tropical, and sub-tropical areas. What this means is that geckos like it hot! People that have geckos as pets have to set up a <u>vivarium</u> (an indoor enclosure that's similar to an animal's natural habitat). They use heating mats and lamps inside the vivarium so that the temperature ranges between 76 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit. That's hot!

How DO Geckos Stick to the Ceiling?

When Nolan tells his mom that it's geometry (and hairy feet) that keeps Sticky from falling off the ceiling, he's not kidding. Geckos have millions of tiny hairs on their feet. These hairs are called setae (pronounced see-tee) and each hair splits into even tinier branches. Each hairy foot of a gecko has up to a billion split-ends! The cool thing about these split-ends is that they don't have glue or gunk or anything sticky on them. It's the angle the toe hairs make with the window or wall or ceiling that creates friction and allows the gecko to "stick".

What Do Geckos Eat?

If cows are <u>herbivores</u> (they eat plants) and cats are <u>carnivores</u> (they eat meat) and people are <u>omnivores</u> (they eat both plants and meat) then what's a gecko?

An <u>insectivore</u>. (Really!) Geckos eat mostly insects (which makes them a special kind of carnivore.) Geckos love crickets and grasshoppers and earthworms and mealworms—insects and worms! (There's no such thing as a wormivore, sorry.)

Fascinating Facts

- Geckos range is size from about 1 inch long to over 1 foot long!
- If you hold a light up to one ear of some geckos, the light will shine clear through the head and out the other ear!
- Geckos can see better than any other lizard.
- Gecko tails are mostly fat. This is where geckos store energy for times when food is scarce.

Some Names of Different Species of Geckos

Crocodile Gecko	Knob-tail Gecko	Leaf-tail Gecko	Leopard Gecko
Day Gecko	Tree Gecko	Carrot Tail Viper Gecko	Tokay Gecko
Crested Gecko	Flying Gecko	Frog-Eyed Gecko	Banded Gecko

So...what species of gecko do you suppose <u>Sticky</u> is? To find out, take the quiz below. (For help answering the questions, look back through the first page.) Remember, pick the <u>best</u> answers.

answern	ng the questions, look back through the
1) How	w many different kinds of geckos are ??
a)	Over a thousand!
b)	Over a million!
c)	Over a hundred!
d)	Twelve!
2) A p	erson who studies reptiles is called a
e)	geckologist
f)	lizardologist
	herpetologist
h)	scalytologist
3) Noc	eturnal means
i)	sleeps at night
j)	active during the day
k)	active at night
1)	never sleeps
4) Wh	ich gecko species is probably diurnal
	Frog-Eyed Gecko
	Leopard Gecko
,	Banded Gecko
p)	Day Gecko
5) Gec	kos are
q)	herbivores
	bugavores
/	wormivores
t)	insectivores
6) Gec	kos tails are mostly
a)	water
,	muscle
<u>.</u> .	fat
4)	hird hait

To find out, take the quiz below. (For help rage.) Remember, pick the <u>best</u> answers.	
7) Geckos like it	
e) hot	
f) cold	
g) wet	
h) windy	
8) Which do NOT eat meat	
i) carnivores	
j) insectivores	
k) herbivores	
l) omnivores	
9) A vivarium is	
m) a place to dance	
n) a way to cheer in French	
o) a place for animals to live	
p) an aquarium on wheels	
10) What are setae?	
e) tiny hairs	
f) tiny claws	
g) tiny antennae	
h) tiny tea leaves from the sea	
11) Geckos love to eat	
i) crickets	
j) grasshoppers	
k) worms	
l) all of the above	
12) If you hold a light up to the ear of some	
geckos, you'll see	
m) lots of ear wax!	
n) gecko brains!	
o) right through its head!	
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Look at the answers you circled above, and fill the answer letter into the corresponding blanks below.

p) high-ratio gears!

