

## Verde Valley Reptile and Amphibian Cheat Sheets

<b>Toads</b>	<b>Prominent Cranial Crests</b>	<b>Parotid Glands</b>	<b>Dorsal Stripe</b>	<b>Red-spotted tubercles on back</b>	<b>Dark Blotches on Back</b>	<b>Looks similar to:</b>	<b>Description of Call</b>
<b>Great Plains</b>	Yes	Yes	Narrow and Faint	Young	Symmetrical Pairs	Woodhouse when blotched	Harsh explosive clatter resembling a jackhammer.
<b>Woodhouse</b>	Yes	Sausage	Prominent	None	If present, not symmetrical	When blotched, Great Plains but when unblotched, Arizona	Explosive nasal "whaaa!" resembling the call of a sheep or infant's cry.
<b>Arizona</b>	Yes, but weak or absent	Oval	Weak or Absent	Young	None	Woodhouse	Long musical trill rising in pitch at the start and ending abruptly.
<b>Red-spotted</b>	No	Round	None	Young and adults	None	Mexican Spadefoot	Prolonged high pitched trill or scream lasting 4 – 10 seconds.
<b>Mexican Spadefoot</b>	No	None	None	Young and adults	Small, irregular	Red-spotted	Metallic vibrating snore that sounds like running a fingernail along the teeth of a comb.

Of 5 species, two (Red-spotted and Mexican spadefoot) have prominent red spots. Of these two, the parotid gland is absent in the Mexican Spadefoot while the Red-spotted has a round parotid. Of 3 remaining species, one has weak or absent cranial crests (Arizona Toad). Of the 2 remaining species, Great Plains has symmetrical (paired) blotches on its back, while Woodhouse, if it has blotches, the blotches are not paired.

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<b>Frogs</b>	<b>Toe Pads</b>	<b>Pattern on Back</b>	<b>Dorsolateral Folds</b>	<b>Thigh Pattern</b>	<b>Description of Call</b>
<b>Chorus Frog</b>	No	3 dark stripes on back	No	N/A	Loud vibrating chirping sound imitated by running a finger over the teeth of a comb.
<b>Mountain Treefrog</b>	Yes, but small	On dark stripe and it goes through the eye and past the shoulder	No	N/A	Short, low pitched on part metallic quack given 140 times a minute.
<b>Canyon Treefrog</b>	Yes	Mottled, no stripes	No	N/A	Loud rattling series of short trills that sound like they are coming from inside a tin can. Likened to a rivet gun.
<b>Bull frog</b>	No	No spots or stripes	No	N/A	Loud, very low pitched bellow that sounds like “jug’o’rum”.
<b>Northern Leopard Frog</b>	No	Large spots with distinct halos	Yes and contiguous	Light background with dark spots	Long, loud accelerating rattle and low pitch grunting sounds like rubbing an inflated balloon.
<b>Chiricahua Leopard Frog</b>	No	Spots are small and numerous	Yes but interrupted and inset towards rear	Small whitish tubercles form “salt and pepper” pattern on dark background	Vibrating hollow rattle lasting several seconds – like a snore.
<b>Lowland Leopard Frog</b>	No	Spots are small and numerous	Yes but are broken and inset towards the rear	Light and dark reticulate pattern.	Series of high pitched rattle or chuckle and short guttural grunting calls, like rubbing an inflated balloon.

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Snake Species	Markings	Color	Other Identifying Characteristics
Western Blind	Solid	Pink, gray, tan, mauve	Resembles an earthworm
Ring-necked	Solid	Gray on back, but vibrant yellowish orange grading into bright red on belly. Pale orange, yellow or cream around the neck	
Red Racer	Solid	Red, brown	Looks like a leather coachwhip
Ground (unbanded form)	Solid	Light red “stripe” along back with tan belly	Small
Black-headed	Solid	Light brown or tan body. Dark brown or black head	
Long-nosed	Banded	Black saddles on a white or cream background. White speckles within black saddles.	
Common King	Banded	Black with white or yellow bands	3 forms of this species, of which California occurs here.
Sonoran Mountain King	Banded	Alternating red/black/white/black bands	
Arizona Coral	Banded	Red, yellow and black bands entirely circle the body. Red bands touch yellow but never touch black.	
Ground (banded form)	Bands/Saddles	Reddish back, tan belly, with black saddles	
Sonoran Whip	Striped	Olive or brown with paired cream stripes on each side	
Striped Whip	Striped	Olive or brown with multiple cream stripes on edges of the back. The stripes are bisected by a thin black line.	
Black-necked garter	Striped	Lateral stripe on 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> scale row, paired neck blotches are solid black.	
Mexican garter	Striped	Lateral stripe on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> scale row, paired neck blotches are diffuse or absent	
Terrestrial garter	Striped	Lateral stripe, if present is on 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> scale row.	We have “wandering” form in our area.
Western Patched nose	Striped	Wide light tan stripe down middle of back with two darker stripes on either side.	Enlarged scale extends upwards over snout.
Narrow-headed garter	Blotched	Gray-brown snake with noticeable darker spots on back	The rostrum appears pinched before the jaws.
Glossy	Blotched	Tan or gray blotches (“saddles”) on light background	Spends most of it’s time underground and is nocturnal.
Gopher	Blotched	Tan with dark brown blotches. The blotches appear stretched toward the head, but crisper toward the tail.	Arizona’s longest snake. Active around the clock
Night Snake	Blotched	Tan with darker blotches on the back (which can be offset and look like paired blotches) and smaller blotches on the sides. Dark bar extends from the back of the eye along the side of the face.	Vertical pupils.
Lyre	Blotched	Light brown with darker brown blotches that each have band across the center. Prominent lyre or chevron shape on top of head.	Vertical pupils.
Western Diamondback Rattlesnake	Blotched	Peppered gray-brown diamond-like blotches on the back. Blotches speckled in color. White and black tail bands about equal width.	
Mohave Rattlesnake	Blotched	Back is lined with a series of dark blotches or diamonds. Blotches not speckled and are uniform in color. Tail has white and black rings with the black rings narrower than the white.	
Arizona Black Rattlesnake	Blotched	Variable background with dark blotches that have one or two lighter blotches in the center. Young are gray or tan with dark blotches.	Only rattle in our area where young is colored different than adult.
Black-tailed Rattlesnake	Blotched	Dark blotches on dark background. The tail is all dark.	

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Lizard Species	Family/Group Feature	Identifying Markings
Western Banded Gecko	Translucent skin, vertical pupils	No tubercles on back
Mediterranean House Gecko	Translucent skin, vertical pupils	Tubercles on back
Zebra-tailed lizard	Belly Bars or Belly Blotches	Bars near front legs. Black and white bands on tail go all the way around.
Greater earless lizard	Belly Bars or Belly Blotches	Bars near back legs. Tail bands are faint on top, but black on bottom.
Lesser earless lizard	Belly Bars or Belly Blotches	Two belly blotches near front legs. No bands on tail.
Side blotched lizard	Weakly keeled dorsal scales	Like plateau but blotches just behind forelimbs
Tree lizard	Weakly keeled dorsal scales	
Plateau lizard	Spiny dorsal scales	No side blotches. Two throat blotches.
Clark Spiny lizard	Spiny dorsal scales	Bars on forelimbs
Desert Spiny lizard	Spiny dorsal scales	Dark wedge on shoulder, no bars on forelimbs.
Regal Horned lizard	Horns on head	Sides and back of head radiate horns. Central portion of back is lighter than sides
Short Horned lizard	Horns on head	Broad gap that separates two central horns on back of head.
Many-lined skink	Glossy scales	Numerous varied stripes on back
Great Plains skink	Glossy scales	No stripes on back – instead has a net-like pattern on back.
Madrean Alligator Lizard	Glossy scales	Chocolate or reddish crossbars on back.
Western whiptail	Slim body, long tail	Unlined back with spots
Gila spotted whiptail	Slim body, long tail	Stripes and spots on back
Plateau striped whiptail	Slim body, long tail	Stripes on back – blue tail
Desert Grassland whiptail	Slim body, long tail	Stripes on back – muted blue to olive tail.
Banded Gila Monster	Stout body, large head, short, fat tail.	