



## **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

### **JAMAICAN IGUANA**

#### **ABOUT**

The Jamaican Iguana (*Cyclura collei*) is the island's largest land animal, reaching a body length of 150 cm or more. It is native to the island of Jamaica. They live only in the Hellshire Hills area on the island, a rugged wilderness area close to the capital city. Jamaican Iguanas were thought to be extinct in the 1940s after they disappeared from the Goat Islands, two small islands off the Jamaican coast, but during the 1990s they were found in their present habitat. The eggs are now being hatched in zoos in order to increase the population and re-introduce them to the wild. Jamaican Iguanas are green with bluish shading and dark olive-green lines on the shoulder. The worst threats to the Jamaican Iguana are from predators such as mongooses, cats, stray dogs and wild pigs. Another threat is from burning the forest for charcoal production.

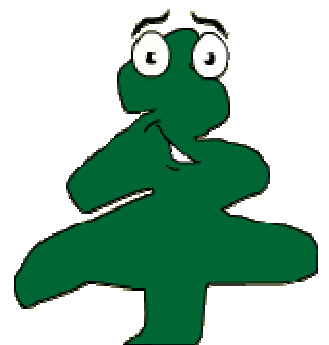
#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Female Jamaican Iguanas often appear reddish-brown because of digging in the red dirt to build nests. There are only two nesting sites in the Hellshire Hills because there is very little dirt in which these large iguanas can build their nests. After iguanas were found in the 1990s the Jamaican Iguana Research and Conservation Group was formed. The Group is planning to re-introduce iguanas after they have become large enough that mongooses cannot attack them.

#### **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

The Jamaican Iguana lives:

- A. on the Goat Islands off the coast of Jamaica.
- B. only in zoos.
- C. in the Hellshire Hills area of Jamaica.



Answer is C.