Lizard Locomotion

Lizards  
Watch a lizard in motion:  Lizard movement  
Lizards' legs are mounted sideways: they are better sprinters than distance runners. The same muscles lizards use to breathe are used to sway their bodies side-to-side.

Crocodilians  
Watch a crocodile in motion on Youtube:  Crocodile Movement  
Crocodiles are ambush hunters, waiting for fish or land animals to come close, then rushing out to attack. They are cold-blooded predators, so they are lethargic, and survive long periods without food. Crocodiles rarely need to actively go hunting. Despite their slow appearance, crocodiles are top predators in their environment.

Snakes  
Watch a rattlesnake in motion: Sidewinder rattlesnake movement  
Snakes move in a few different ways. Some snakes slither, but some are sidewinders (i.e. sidewinder rattlesnakes), and some snakes climb trees (by bunching up to form horizontal loops and then the head moves forward and the body straightens—like an accordion).

Turtles  
Watch a tortoise in motion on Youtube:  Turtle on a treadmill  
Though people usually think of turtles as slow, some sea turtles can swim up to 20 miles per hour. Giant tortoises crawl at around 0.17 miles per hour!

Reptile Relay Race  
Now that the students have seen and talked about reptile movement, hold a reptile relay race. Group students into groups of four and designate which students will be sea turtles, sidewinder snakes, crocodiles, or komodo dragons.

Kindergarten Core: Standard 3 Objective 2  
Describe how young animals are different from adult animals and how animals care for their young.

Second Grade Core: Standard 3 Objective 1  
Investigate relationships between plants and animals and how living things change during their lives; observe and describe relationships between plants and animals.

Third Grade Core: Standard 2 Objective 2  
Describe the interactions between living and nonliving things in a small environment.

Fourth Grade Core: Standard 5 Objective 2  
Cite examples of physical features that allow particular plants and animals to live in specific environments. Describe some of the interactions between animals and plants of a given environment.

Fifth Grade Core: Standard 5 Objective 2  
Describe how some characteristics could give a species a survival advantage in a particular environment.