



Arizona Series

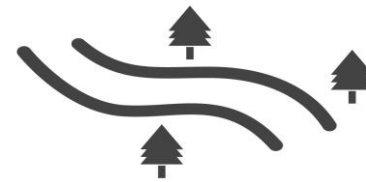
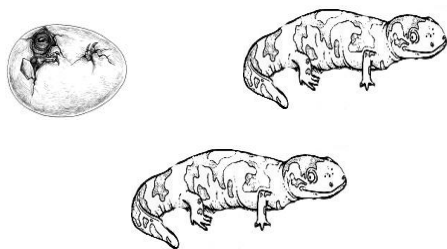
Gila Monster



By Janet Giel-Romo, Ed.D.



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Gila monsters are lizards.
Lizards are reptiles. Baby Gila
monsters hatch from eggs.

Gila monsters are named after
the **Gila River**. Gila monsters
were discovered near the Gila
River.



Gila monsters are big lizards. They can grow to be about 2 feet long.



Gila monsters live in 3 deserts. They live in the Sonoran, Mojave, and Chihuahuan deserts.



A burrow is a hole an animal lives in. Sometimes Gila monsters make burrows. Sometimes they steal another animal's burrow!



Gila monsters eat bird eggs and mice.

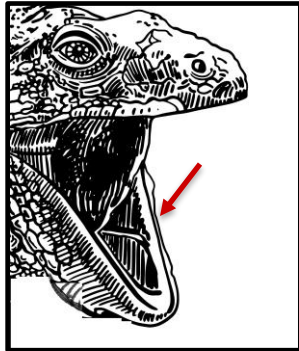


HISSsssss.....

Gila monsters make a hissing sound when they are **scared**. That is a warning to move back.



Gila monsters **bite**. They close their jaws tight when they bite. It hurts! That is why they are called monsters!



POISON

The Gila monster is poisonous.
They are venomous. Venom is
the poison that comes out of its
mouth when it bites.



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