

# **SWIFT LEARNING BOOK—1**

**(Part V)**

## **Animals Of Madagascar**



**SWIFT Topic: Nature-Earth-Science (Animals)**

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green  
Lizard  
"gold dust  
day gecko"

tomato  
frog



## **Tomato frog:**

Found in Madagascar, in the warm, humid parts. They burrow in the ground, and eat insects. They do not have teeth, but the roof of their mouth is covered with ridges to assist eating. They can release a sticky glue-like secretion as a protection; they can also inflate their body like a balloon.

## **Green lizard (also "gold dust day gecko"):**

This reptile illustrated here can also be called "gold dust day gecko". This type of lizard often lives in humid, tropical climates, with plenty of rain and warmth. These creatures live well in tropical areas of Madagascar, as well as in the Hawaiian Islands. Most geckos are active during the night, but as the name indicates the "day gecko" is awake mostly in the day.



microcebus



## **Microcebus:**

This animal is known by many names, such as “mouse lemur”. They are small creatures, with a length of body and tail combined of usually less than 30 centimetres long (less than one foot long).

These are found only on the island-nation of Madagascar. They can live in many types of forests—including thorny scrub, and as it is with other lemurs, the thorns on the scrub plants don't bother them.



red-ruffed  
lemur



ring-tailed lemur (and baby)

## **Ring-tailed lemur:**

Lives in the dry forests of southern and western Madagascar. Feeds on fruit, flowers, leaves, and bark.

They are good climbers, and leapers; but this type spend much time on the ground foraging for food.

## **Red-ruffed lemur:**

Found in the rainforests of north-eastern Madagascar. They live in groups, and forage for food, such as fruit, nectar, pollen, and at times leaves and seeds.

While eating nectar from tree flowers they do an important job—helping to pollinate some of the trees.



Leaf-nosed  
snake

civet





## **Civet (also known as "fanaloka"):**

These can be found in the evergreen forests of Madagascar. They spend the day sleeping in hollow trees, fallen logs, or inside crevices in rocks. The young are born with eyes open and a covering of fur, and can usually walk within three days after birth.

## **Leaf snake:**

It is reddish brown or beige in colour, and rests in branches.

Its slender body can be mistaken for a branch.

The head of females have a leaf-shaped nose; while the males have a sharper pointed extension.



cotton dog



fossa

## **Cotton dogs or “Coton De Tulear”:**

Originally native to Madagascar. They are cute, small, lively, and like to romp and play. They often live long healthy lives.

They are friendly and affectionate with their owners, delighting them with their antics. The hair becomes whiter as the dog matures and is older.

## **Fossa:**

These animals are active both in trees and on the ground, and are excellent climbers using their long tails for balance. They have retractable claws making it easy to climb straight up and down tree trunks. They can be a problem, however, much like foxes and coyotes, and are not welcome around villages, homes and farms.



## Chameleon:

A type of reptile, that is able to dramatically change the colour of its skin.

There are about 150 species of chameleons, and Madagascar is home to about half of these types.

Brookesia chameleons are some of the world's smallest reptiles; one species reaches a maximum length of 30 millimetres (just over 1 inch).

chameleons