

European Path (e)Motion – Secondary School of Giardini Naxos

Work Sheet 4: Biology - Red Lizard

Name: Date:

- **Useful Knowledge**

Lizards are found around the world, they are a common reptile.

Most lizards have dry, scaly skin. They have four legs, clawed feet, and a long tail. You can see their outside ear opening. Lizards have a weak tail. A small bump or tug will break it off. This will puzzle the enemy. The lizard can get away. Not all lizards have weak tails. Lizard tails help in balance and movement. Fat is stored in the tail. Losing the tail can be a big problem but some lizards can grow a new tail. Some lizards eat bugs and spiders. Others eat plants, small animals, or even other lizards.

What is the Red Lizard?

The Red Lizard is an important and special species on the Isola Bella, Taormania, Sicily.

It is known for the particular colour of its belly. It is a species of lizard in the family Lacertidae, which lives on dry walls of Isola Bella (Taormina) and of which there are about 1000 exemplaries.



This photo highlights the dark red of the bottom of this lizard Taormina which differentiates it from widespread *Podarcis siculus* constituting a rare endemism of the small island. Its natural habitats are Mediterranean-type shrubby vegetation, rocky, rural gardens, plantations and urban areas.

Exercises

Answer to the following questions. Put a ✓ in the correct box:

- **What does the lizard eat?**

- Mosquitos
- Fish
- Bugs and spiders
- Ants

- **What gives its name to the Red Lizard?**

- Its head
- Its belly
- Its legs
- Its tail

- **How many Red Lizards are there on the island?**

- About 100
- About 1000
- About 10000
- About 100000