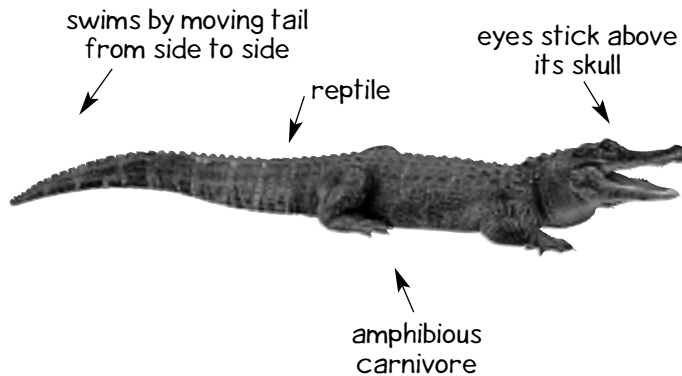


# Prewriting Ideas

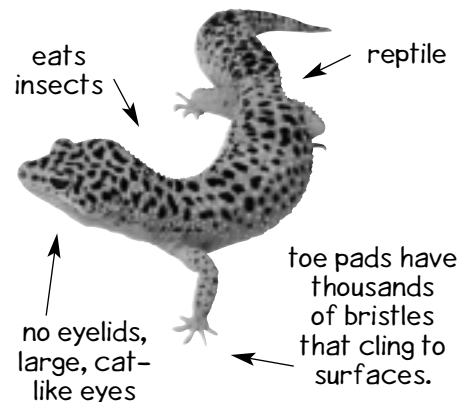
Use these prewriting ideas to help you find topics to write about. These ideas can also help you focus, explore, or narrow your topic.

- ▶ **Listing** Quickly list pairs of things you could compare and contrast. Choose a pair that interests you. Then, under the headings *Alike* and *Different*, list similarities and differences.
- ▶ **Reading** Skim books, magazines, newspapers, advertisements, or other printed materials, and find pairs of people or things to compare. Then make notes about the similarities and differences of each pair.
- ▶ **Drawing** Draw a picture of two people, animals, or objects to show how they are alike and different. Then make notes about the pictures.
- ▶ **Observing** Find pairs of people or things to compare by looking around your classroom, school, home, or neighborhood. Then make notes telling how each pair is alike and different.
- ▶ **Looking at art** Find paintings, sculptures, photographs, architecture, drawings, or ceramics that differ in style. Then compare and contrast two pieces of art or two different styles.

## The American Alligator



## The Banded Gecko



- ▶ **Showing and telling** Bring to class two objects or two photographs of different scenes. Compare and contrast the two for your classmates. Let them share their questions and ideas.
- ▶ **Watching television** Think of two shows or two characters in shows that you could compare and contrast. Make notes telling how the shows or characters are alike and different.