



## The Lone Anole



*The Lone Anole*

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**BACKGROUND**

Anole lizards are a highly diverse group, with nearly 400 known species, of which around 150 are found in the Caribbean. The image used in this activity is that of a male Plymouth anole on the island of Montserrat in the West Indies displaying its bright yellow dewlap, the flap of skin attached to its throat. Male anoles usually keep their dewlaps hidden unless they are challenged by another male or need to impress a female. The dewlap of each anole species has a characteristic color and shape. Along with the species-specific head bobbing behavior, the timing of the dewlap display serves as a way to communicate with members of the same species and as a threat to ward off predators.