

Just what is a **skink**? Skinks are lizards in the *Scinidae* family. They look like they do not have a neck, and they have small legs. (Think T-rex arms.) There are over 1,510 species of skinks. Zinc is a blue-tongued skink. He is much larger than the skinks that live in the US. His species is native to Australia. The world's largest skink is the Solomon Island skink which can reach 32" in length. The smallest skink is the dwarf litter skink which is only 1.18" long and also comes from Australia. NC is home to 5 skinks: southeastern five-lined, five-lined, broad-headed, ground, and coal. The first 3 species have blue tails until they become adults. Skinks can drop their tails to distract predators. The tails will wiggle while they escape. It takes about 2 months for them to regrow their tails, so please do not test this defense mechanism on our native skinks.



Blue-Tongued Skink

See if you can find all 21 species of skinks in this word search.

## Skinks

I	S	Y	D	B	L	S	L	E	N	D	E	R	W
R	I	R	P	S	I	C	E	E	N	S	I	D	N
S	N	A	E	T	N	Y	C	S	F	I	R	E	G
P	B	I	R	R	E	D	P	O	A	Y	I	U	R
I	A	N	E	I	D	E	A	E	A	L	A	G	E
N	D	B	T	P	W	D	O	C	E	L	R	N	A
Y	E	O	T	E	R	A	T	O	I	L	P	O	T
T	Y	W	I	D	I	E	A	M	U	T	S	T	P
A	E	K	L	D	T	H	G	M	M	O	L	E	L
I	E	E	F	N	H	D	O	O	A	R	N	U	A
L	K	E	R	A	I	A	E	N	B	T	L	L	I
E	A	L	A	S	N	O	W	S	U	C	E	B	N
D	N	E	W	D	G	R	A	U	Y	W	N	E	S
E	S	D	D	L	U	B	O	N	A	E	E	R	N

- DWARF LITTER
- MOLE
- GREAT PLAINS
- COAL
- BROAD HEADED
- LINED WRITHING
- RAINBOW
- OTAGO
- SAND
- SNAKE EYED
- SPINY TAILED
- BLUE TONGUED
- STRIPED
- SLENDER
- SLEEPY
- COMMON SUN
- PRAIRIE
- FIRE
- SINBAD
- MABUYA
- KEELED

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2434073/>

To learn more about our NC skinks, visit <https://herpsofnc.org/lizards/>