

Name _____



The Role of Iguanas in the Ecosystem

Iguanas play an important role in their ecosystems. These fascinating reptiles are herbivores, meaning they mainly eat plants. By feeding on leaves, flowers, and fruits, iguanas help control plant growth. This prevents certain plants from growing too much and taking over their habitats.

Another way iguanas contribute to their environment is by spreading seeds. When iguanas eat fruits, the seeds often pass through their bodies and get dropped in different areas as waste. This helps new plants grow and keeps the ecosystem balanced.

Iguanas are also a source of food for many predators. Birds of prey, large snakes, and even some mammals hunt iguanas for food. By being part of the food chain, iguanas support predator species and help maintain balance in the ecosystem.

In addition, iguanas help keep trees healthy. When they climb trees to find food, they often remove older leaves and weak branches. This allows healthier leaves to grow, helping the tree stay strong.

Iguanas are also indicators of a healthy environment. If their population starts to decline, it can signal problems like habitat loss or pollution. Protecting iguanas helps protect the entire ecosystem they live in.

These reptiles play a key part in their habitats by controlling plant growth, spreading seeds, and being part of the food chain. Their presence shows how all living things are connected and why every species matters.