



GILA MONSTER

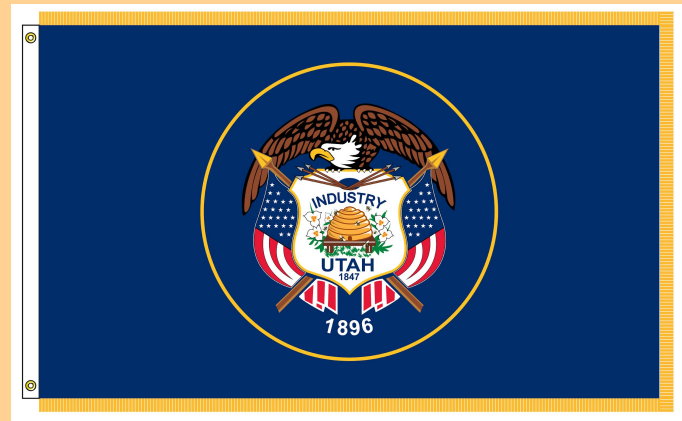
BY JOSEPH TSAI, KYLA LARSEN, AVA ATKIN, & KAMEN SEAL

Picture from
Whereinyourstate.com

Why does Utah need a State Reptile?

A State Reptile can :

- Represent **Utah's values** and **characteristics**.
- Represent the **beauty** and **uniqueness** of the nature in Utah
- Represent the rangers, the biologists, and anyone with a love of nature.
- Help others to understand what we, the people of Utah believe in.
- Has many connection to Utah's past Indi



Picture from onlinelibrary.utah.gov

Why the Gila Monster?

The Gila Monster or *Heloderma Suspectum*, will represents many great qualities to have in a state symbol because:

- The Gila Monster is rare
- These creatures are venomous, but they are very shy and not aggressive at all, and will only bite if attacked or threatened.
- The Gila Monster is near threatened, so we need to protect it.^{5,6}



Type 2 Diabetic Treatment and Gila Monster Traits

The Gila Monster is also useful on a medical level.

“One component of their venom, *exenatide* (ex-en-a-tide), has already been approved by the FDA ... (as) a drug used in the treatment of Type-II diabetes.” says Dr. Heyborne, *{Professor of SUU in Cedar City}*.

The Gila Monster has many great characteristics & also display uniqueness.

We asked Cameron Rognan *{Biologist & Administrator of Red Cliffs Desert Reserve}* What makes the Gila Monster Unique? He said, “It’s their incredible resolve and determination. Their male to male combat sessions can last for several hours, sometimes several days.”

Picture from Kids.sandiegozoo.org



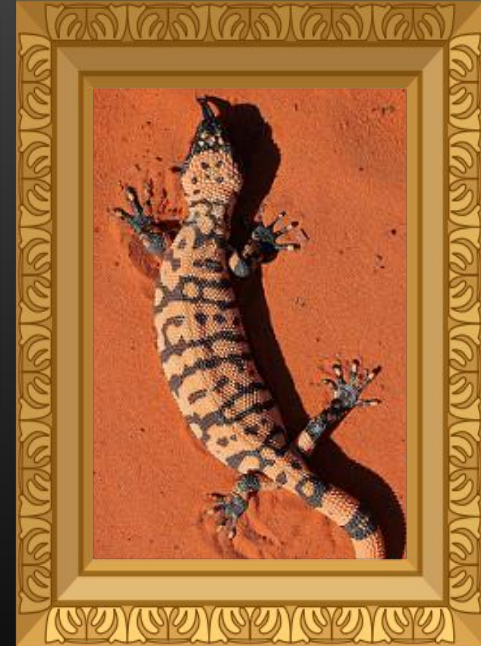
And to be honest, look how adorable these creatures are!



Reticulated Gila Monster



Baby Gila Monsters (Above)



Banded Gila Monster

*Thanks to Cameron Rognan (Left & Right)
& National Geographic Kids (Middle) for pictures.*

*Gila monsters also have 2 distinct stripe
stripe patterns,
Reticulated (Left) or Banded (Right)*

In Conclusion...

We would like the Gila monster to be Utah's State reptile because:

- The Gila monster is a great reptile in many different aspects.
- This reptile represents a lot of the great qualities that our amazing state Utah has, such as **perseverance, willing to fight for important things**, and have **incredible stamina**.
- Gila monsters are **unique & irreplaceable**.



Picture by Cameron Rognan, Biologist of Red Cliffs Desert Reserve

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If you agree with us and want the Gila monster to be our state reptile, then help us succeed by sending a letter and/or E-Mails to your local State Representative to let them know that you want the Gila monster to be Utah's state reptile. So thank you for listening to us and we hope that you will write a letter to your local representatives.



Thanks to Cameron Rognan for the image








Sources/Reference & Credits

We obtained our information from:

1. <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/gila-monster> San Diego Zoo Website Background Knowledge & Facts.
2. <https://www.arkive.org/gila-monster/heloderma-suspectum/>
<https://wildaboututah.org/gila-monsters/> Background Knowledge & Facts.
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8. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov U.S. National Library of Medicine About the treatment of Type 2 Diabetes with Gila Monster Venom.
9. <https://www.youtube.com/user/cameronrognan/videos> Shows the Gila Monster's natural habits and way of life.
10. https://www.flickr.com/search/?user_id=91636355%40N00&sort=date-taken-desc&text=gila%20monster&view_all=1 Cameron Rognan's Pictures of Gila Monsters

We would like to thank:

- *Biologist Cameron Rognan & Professor Heyborne* for helping us with some facts about the Gila Monster.
 - *Cameron Rognan* for allowing us to use his pictures.
 - *Google Search Engine* for helping us find all those pictures & information.
 - Thanks to *Wheninyourstate.com, Statesymbolsusa.org, & National Geographic Kids* for some of the pictures.
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