

## “Hanging on for Dear Life”

This is Randi Hacker with another Postcard from Abroad from the KU Centers for Global and International Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Like Tom Cruise in a movie about an impossible mission, Green and Brown Anoles are great climbers and sometimes have to hang on for dear life. If you travel to the Caribbean, you’ll no doubt find these tiny lizards. *They’re everywhere!* Anoles have adapted to their environment with active camouflage and exceptionally sticky toes. However, last year’s devastating hurricanes in the Caribbean stripped bare and uprooted many trees. You might think that anoles couldn’t survive, but you would be wrong. *They’ve been around since before the dinosaurs, after all!* Researchers have observed shorter hind-legs and larger toes in survivors meaning that anoles are likely to hang on through another tempestuous season. Let’s hear it for survival of the fittest.

With thanks to Aron Muci for this text, from the KU Center for Global and International Studies, this is Randi Hacker. Wish you were here!

### **Educators Resources:**

Interested to learn more about Anole and major weather events in the Caribbean? Check out selected resources for teachers and students.

#### **Listen & Read:**

“Caribbean Lizards Are Already Adapting In the Wake of Last Year's Hurricanes”  
– Popular Mechanics

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/animals/a22563887/caribbean-lizards-evolution-hurricanes/>

“After Last Year's Hurricanes, Caribbean Lizards Are Better at Holding on for Dear Life”

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/07/hurricanes-irma-maria-lizard-grip/566006/>

“A tiny lizard adapts to become faster, stronger to survive in a warmer climate”

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/a-tiny-lizard-adapts-to-become-faster-stronger-to-survive-in-a-warmer-climate/2014/09/16/28cb396e-3d19-11e4-b03f-de718edeb92f\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.51c89b08bf2](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/a-tiny-lizard-adapts-to-become-faster-stronger-to-survive-in-a-warmer-climate/2014/09/16/28cb396e-3d19-11e4-b03f-de718edeb92f_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.51c89b08bf2)

#### **Videos:**

“6 Cool Facts about Green/Brown Anoles | Pet Reptiles”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=187&v=blXmYtPXrQ4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=187&v=blXmYtPXrQ4)

“Small Lizard is Super Feisty!”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4G0XKZWAKg>

“Green anoles fighting”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcHomqJ7MI0>

“Hurricane Maria Lashes Turks And Caicos With Damaging Winds And Rain | TODAY”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJUNgsOQ\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJUNgsOQ_o)

“Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico - Eyewall Winds, Drone Footage Before and After, and Aftermath”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOlw2s5ZHR4>

### **Teaching about Hurricanes in the Caribbean:**

Hurricane Season, Grades K-5

*Learn How Hurricanes Are Formed, Tracked and Affected by Global Warming*

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/hurricane-season-grades-k-5.html>

Hurricane Season, Grades 6-8

*Learn How Hurricanes Are Formed, Tracked and Affected by Global Warming*

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/hurricane-season-grades-6-8.html>

“How to Talk About Puerto Rico With Your Students”

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/how-to-talk-about-puerto-rico-with-your-students>

PBS Hurricane Maria & Irma Lesson Plans

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/tag/hurricane-maria/>

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/tag/hurricane-irma/>