



# Snakes

# Snakes

## What's the gist?

- Snakes are reptiles that share the same scientific class, (Class Reptilia), as turtles, alligators, crocodiles, tuatara, and lizards.
- Reptiles are vertebrates and are ectothermic (cold-blooded).
- Snakes do not have legs but can move quickly on land by crawling on their bellies.
- They can also swim and climb.
- Snakes are important organisms in the food web.
- Snakes are carnivores and they will eat insects, amphibians, rodents, rabbits, eggs, fish, birds and earthworms.
- The King snake can even eat venomous snakes.
- Snakes are not always the top predator in the food chain.
- They can also become prey for other predators like hawks and herons, or mammals like skunks and raccoons.
- There are more than 3,000 species of snakes in the world.
- The Burmese python is native to Southeast Asia. They are large invasive snakes that have established themselves in the Florida Everglades and are eating up the native wildlife and are disrupting ecosystems.
- Louisiana has 48 species of snakes.
- Only 7 species are venomous.
- Some of the water snakes like the banded water snake, the southern water snake, the plain-bellied and diamondback water snakes are nonvenomous species that are often killed because they are misidentified as a water moccasin.
- The best thing to do if you see a snake is let it move out of your way.

# Picture It!

Check out these pictures of Turtles and their habitat!



Images by Sarah Rayner

# Learning Links

Take a look at these materials to further your experience!

**Read a story, Listen to a story, Take a tour here: <https://bit.ly/30v3yAQ>**

**Don't Kill that Snake! Without these Louisiana Species, Rodents Would be Out of Control**

**Snakes of Louisiana by Brad Glorioso**

**Great pictures with information about the different species of snakes in Louisiana**

**Very informative video on snakes: Snakes! Behavior, Feeding and Diversity.**

**Louisiana's Venomous Snakes**

**Download the iNaturalist app**

# Activity Corner

Check out these awesome activities for an enriching learning experience!

[Flying Snake Art](#)

[Button Snake](#)

[Finger Knitting Snakes](#)