

Science Story Adventures



Snakes

Learning outcomes

- » Students know different animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Grade 1 - Life Sciences)
- » Students know animals eat plants or other animals for food and may also use plants or even other animals for shelter and nesting. (Grade 1 - Life Sciences)
- » Students know plants and animals have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival and reproduction. (Grade 3 - Life Sciences)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

The Singing Snake by Stefan Czernecki

Verdi by Jannell Cannon

The Gum-Chewing Rattler by Joe Hayes

Rattlesnake Dance by Jim Arnosky

Activities we did

- » We examined a snake skeleton and talked about how it is similar to and different from a human skeleton.
- » We looked at a snake skull and talked about the different ways snakes feed and what they eat.
- » We explored snake skin patterns and shedding by looking at snake skins.
- » We looked at rattles from rattlesnakes and talked about what they are used for.

Today's craft: Springy Spiral Snake



You will need:

- » Snake template
- » Cardstock
- » Crayons or colored pencils
- » Scissors
- » Hole puncher
- » String or yarn

Directions:

1. Print the snake template on cardstock.
2. Color the snake on both sides.
3. Cut out along the spiral lines.
4. Punch a hole near the tip of the snake's tail.
5. Thread some yarn or string through the hole and knot.

Adapted from <http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mspiralsnake.htm>

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Asombros Serpientes by Alexandra Parsons. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL666 .O6 P3718 1990

Filled with photos, this book provides an overview of what makes a snake a snake, as well as more detailed descriptions of specific kinds of snakes.

Giant Snakes by Seymour Simon. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL666 .O6 S54 2006

Learn about snakes that can be as long as a school bus--boas and pythons--in this easy reader.

The Life Cycle of a Snake by John Crossingham. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL666 .O6 C836 2003

Follow a snake through its different stages of life and learn about how you can protect snakes.

The Snake Scientist by Sy Montgomery. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL666 .O636 M65 1999

Travel to the wilds of Manitoba to study thousands of red-sided garter snakes with scientist, Bob Mason. Part of the "Scientists in the Field" series.

DVDs

Life in Cold Blood Nat. Ctr. Media QL641 .L54 2008

A 5-episode TV series presented by David Attenborough about reptiles and amphibians. Episode 4 focuses on snakes.

Spiders & Snakes Nat. Ctr. Media QL458.4 .N372 2006

This DVD contains two programs that originally aired on the TV program *Nature*. The second program focuses on the dangers and benefits of snake venom.

Websites

Anacondas (National Geographic Kids Creature Feature)

Learn more about one of the largest snakes in the world. Includes videos and photos.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature/anaconda/>

California Herps

Extensive information, photos and videos of reptiles and amphibians found in California.

<http://www.californiaherps.com/index.html>

San Diego Zoo: Snakes

An overview of the characteristics of snakes, also includes links to pages on specific families of snakes.

<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-snake.html>

