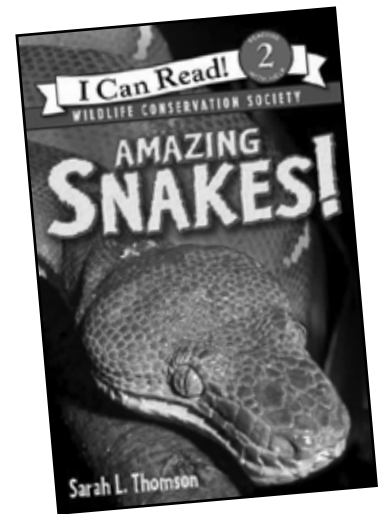


It's All About Snakes!

Based on *Amazing Snakes*
by Sarah Thomson
Grades: K-2



About the book

Learning about the science of snakes has never been so thrilling! Did you know that if your mouth was like a snake's mouth you could eat a watermelon whole. This book is filled with fascinating facts about snakes that kids will enjoy. The vivid photography, provided by the Wildlife Conservation Society, brings many species of snakes to life and may leave a few readers with a chill!

Set the stage

Use the following to get students ready to read:

- Tell students that *Amazing Snakes* is a nonfiction book about a real subject, (for younger children you may need to discuss the difference between fiction and non-fiction books).
- Ask students what facts they already know about snakes (review with younger children that a fact is something that is known or proved to be true).
- Together create a list of species of snakes that the students already know, as you read check the species found in the book off your list.
- Explain to students what the Wildlife Conservation Society is and how it protects endangered animals. The WCS studies how animals live, protects wilderness areas, and teaches people about animals and what they need to survive. Find out more about the WCS on the title page of the book.

Review

After reading the book, discuss the following with students:

- Review how many species of snakes you listed earlier that were found in the book, remind students that there are more than 2,000 species of snakes in the world.
- Test student's comprehension of the book by asking how many snake habitats they can recall (ocean, jungle, trees, underground, desert and even your own backyard).
- Discuss with students some of the ways snakes can be useful to us and our environment. (A snake's venom can be used as medicine, snakes rid many areas of unwanted vermin, snakes are a food source for other animals, etc.).

Ask students to recall some facts they learned about snakes from the book. Create a web diagram on the board to record student's answers. Don't miss these interesting facts from the book: snakes do not chew, snakes do not blink or have eyelids, snakes don't need their parents to survive, some snakes eat crocodiles, and some snakes are almost as long as a school bus.

Student Activities

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Related Activities

To extend students' enjoyment of the book, try these:

- **Alphabet Snake:** Create an alphabet snake to help students practice their alphabet. For this activity you will need paper towel or toilet tissue tubes, yarn, and markers. Cut each tube into equal rings large enough to write one alphabet letter on it. Each student will need 26 tube rings plus one larger tube for the snake head. Have students write one letter on each ring. Next, give them yarn to string all their rings together (if you have helpers you can punch four holes in each ring on the ends and use the yarn to tie each ring to one another). Leave enough yarn to tie onto the last ring and the snake head. Remind them to look at the alphabet chart to get their alphabet rings in the right order. Once they are all strung together they can decorate the larger ring for the snake head and tie it with yarn to the snake body.
- **Acrostic Poems:** Have some fun with poetry by creating an acrostic snake poem with students. Together as a class brainstorm some facts or key words that students know about snakes and record them on the board. Next, have students write the word SNAKE vertically and then try to find a word or fact that starts with each letter in snake. Once students see how an acrostic poem works have them create one using their first name.
- **Habitat Diorama:** Discuss with students the different habitats that snakes may live in. Have each student select a species of snakes and research their habitat. Next, have students create a shoebox diorama showing the habitat their species of snake lives in. Show off their creations in the classroom or library.
- **The Science of Snakes:** Learn more about how and where snakes live by visiting a local zoo or reptile exhibit. When you return to school discuss what learning happened and allow time for your students to make thank you cards for the zoo showing off their best snake drawings.
- **Shake, Rattle, and Roll:** Create a fun craft that sounds a lot like a rattle snake. Collect cylinder containers like the ones used for chips or powered drink mixes. Help students pour a little rice into each container and tape the lid firmly shut. Next, the students can cover the outside with construction paper and decorate their shakers with their best snake designs. Now turn on some music and let the Shake, Rattle, and Roll begin!

Name: _____

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Vocabulary Builder

Directions: Read each clue and fill in the word from the Word Box that fits the best. Write the letters from each box to spell the secret word.

Word Box

prey	venom	habitat	constrictors
shed	hatch	hibernate	blink

1. When a snake's old skin loosens and falls off.

2. Liquid that comes from a snake's fangs.

_____ _____

3. When baby snakes come out of their egg.

4. When a snake goes underground in winter so it won't freeze.

_____ _____

5. Snakes are not able to do this.

_____ _____

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6. A place where a snake lives.

7. Animals that snakes find for food

_____ _____

8. Snakes that kill their prey by squeezing it.

_____ _____

Secret Word

Write each letter in order from the boxes above to find the secret word.
