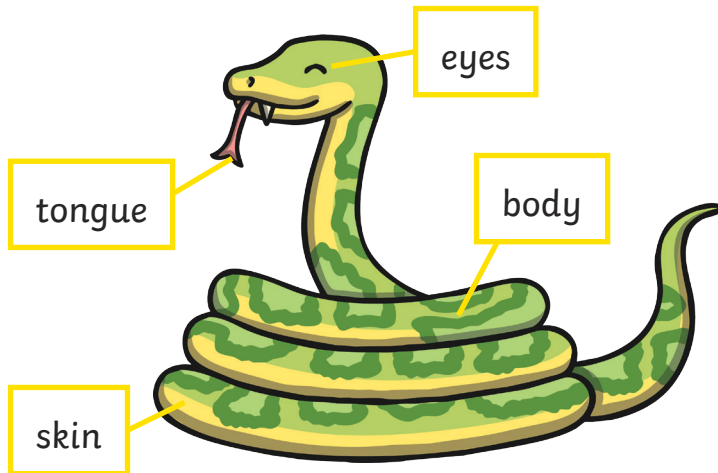


Taking Care of a Snake

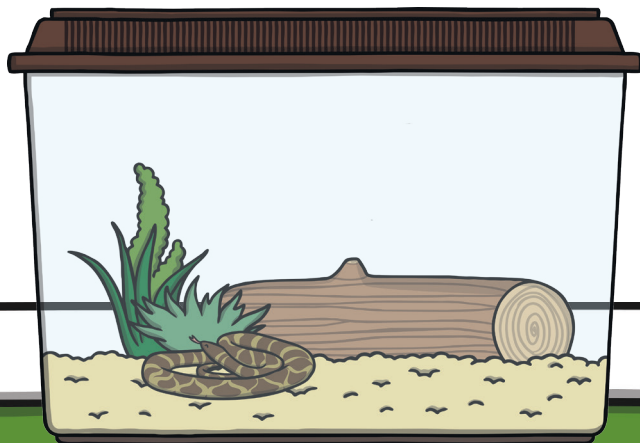
Snakes are quite easy pets to take care of.
They come in different sizes.

A snake



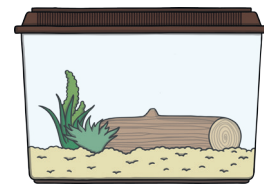
Snakes have cold blood so they
need heat from lamps or mats
to help stay warm.

Snakes shed their skin about
once a month.

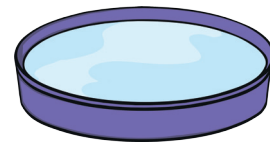


Things a snake will need:

tank



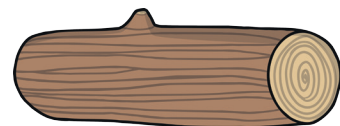
water bowl



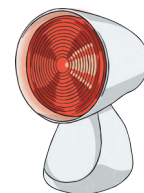
food



a place to hide



heat lamp or mat



Questions

1. Tick one word which would fit in the following sentence.

Snakes are quite _____ pets to care for.

hard

easy

difficult

2. Which of these things does a snake have?

skin

leg

arm

3. Tick two things a snake needs.

hay

a place to hide

a tank

4. Snakes have what type of blood?

hot

warm

cold

5. Snakes shed their skin about once a...

month

day

week

Answers

1. Tick one word which would fit in the following sentence.

Snakes are quite _____ pets to care for.

hard

easy

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2. Which of these things does a snake have?

skin

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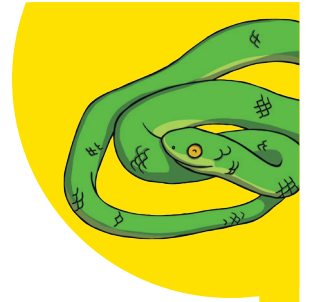
month

day

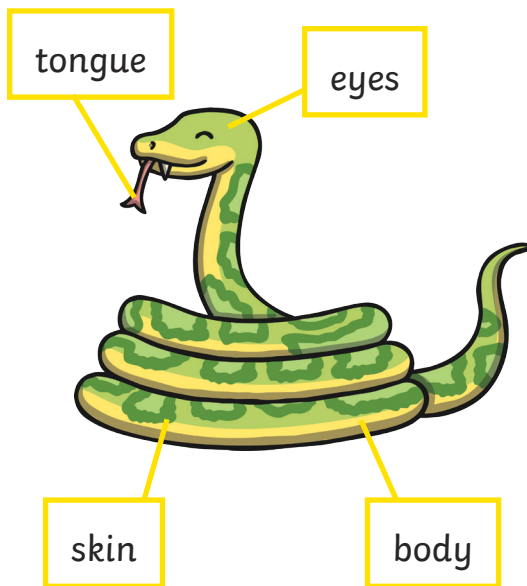
week

Taking Care of a Snake

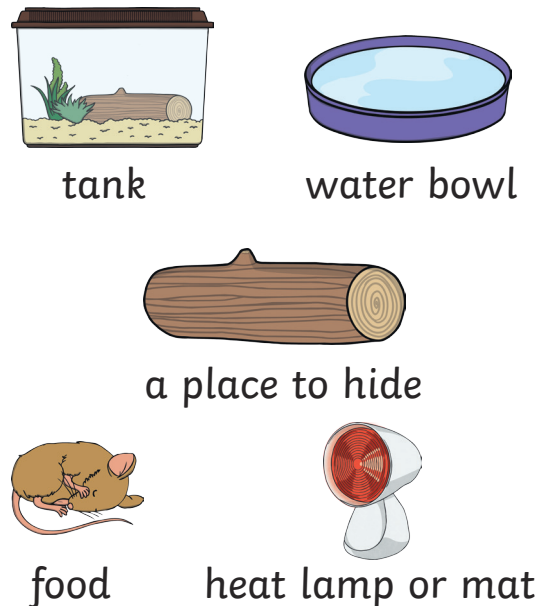
Snakes are interesting pets to watch and look after. They can be held like other pets as long as you are careful. They come in different sizes.



What does a snake look like?



What does a snake need?



What do I need to remember about having a snake?

Snakes are meat-eaters but don't need to be fed very often. Their skin can feel a bit strange and cold but it is fine to hold them gently. They need to get used to being held and they like it if your hands are warm.

How do I keep a snake healthy?

Snakes need to live in a place that is quite damp and warm. This helps them to move around and to shed their skin. If they get too dry, their skin gets tight and they will need to go to the vet.



Questions

1. What do snakes eat?

vegetables

fruit

meat

2. What does a snake's tank need to be like? Tick two.

damp

warm

dry

3. Snakes need to be fed often.

true

false

4. How would a snake's skin feel?

warm

cold

hot

5. Find and copy one word which means 'odd'.

Answers

1. What do snakes eat?

vegetables

fruit

meat

2. What does a snake's tank need to be like? Tick two.

damp

warm

dry

3. Snakes need to be fed often.

true

false

4. How would a snake's skin feel?

warm

cold

hot

5. Find and copy one word which means 'odd'.

strange

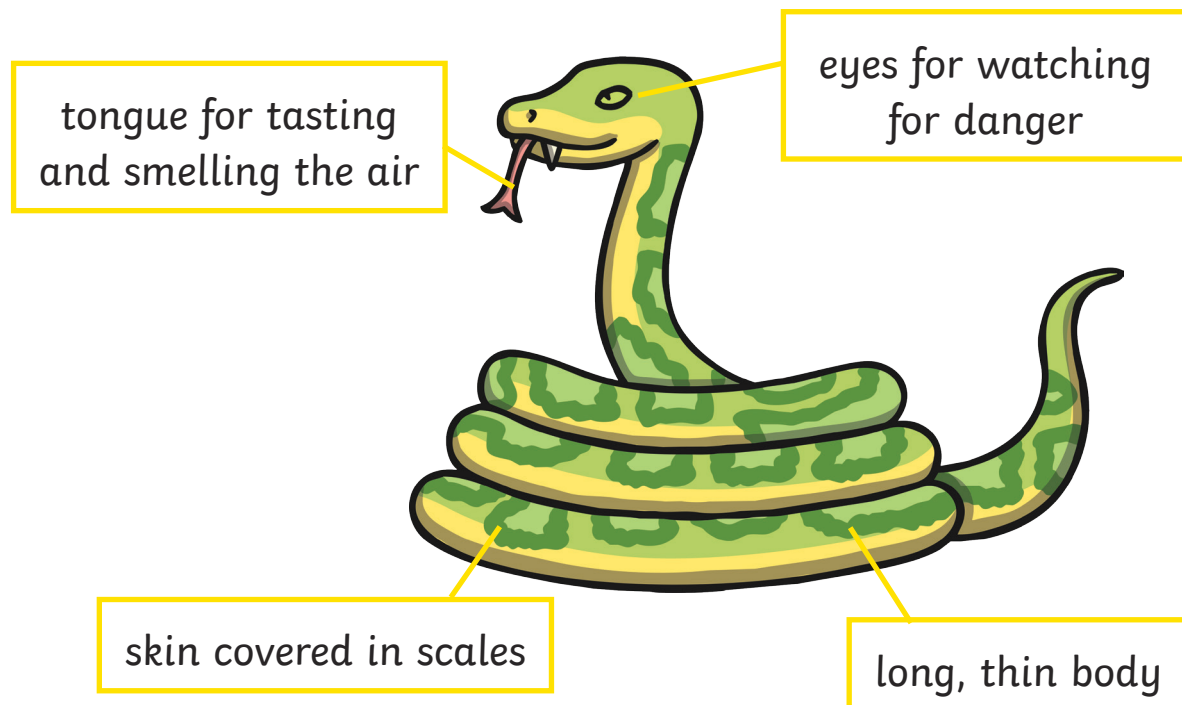
Taking Care of a Snake

Snakes are an unusual pet to have but they are not too difficult to take care of. Although some snakes are dangerous, most are safe to keep as pets.



What Does a Snake Look Like?

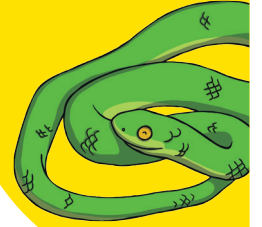
Snakes have a long, thin body. They do not have any legs; they move around by wriggling their body. Unlike many other pets, their skin is covered in scales and they are cold-blooded so they feel cold to the touch. They use their eyes to see and tongue to smell and taste the air.



What Does a Snake Need?

Snakes need a tank, or terrarium, to live in. The bigger the snake, the bigger the tank. It is also essential that they have somewhere to hide in the tank where it is dark. Although snakes are cold-blooded, they don't want to be hot all the time. Therefore, only a section of the tank needs to have a heat mat or a lamp. There should also be cool areas for the snake to spend time in.

Taking Care of a Snake

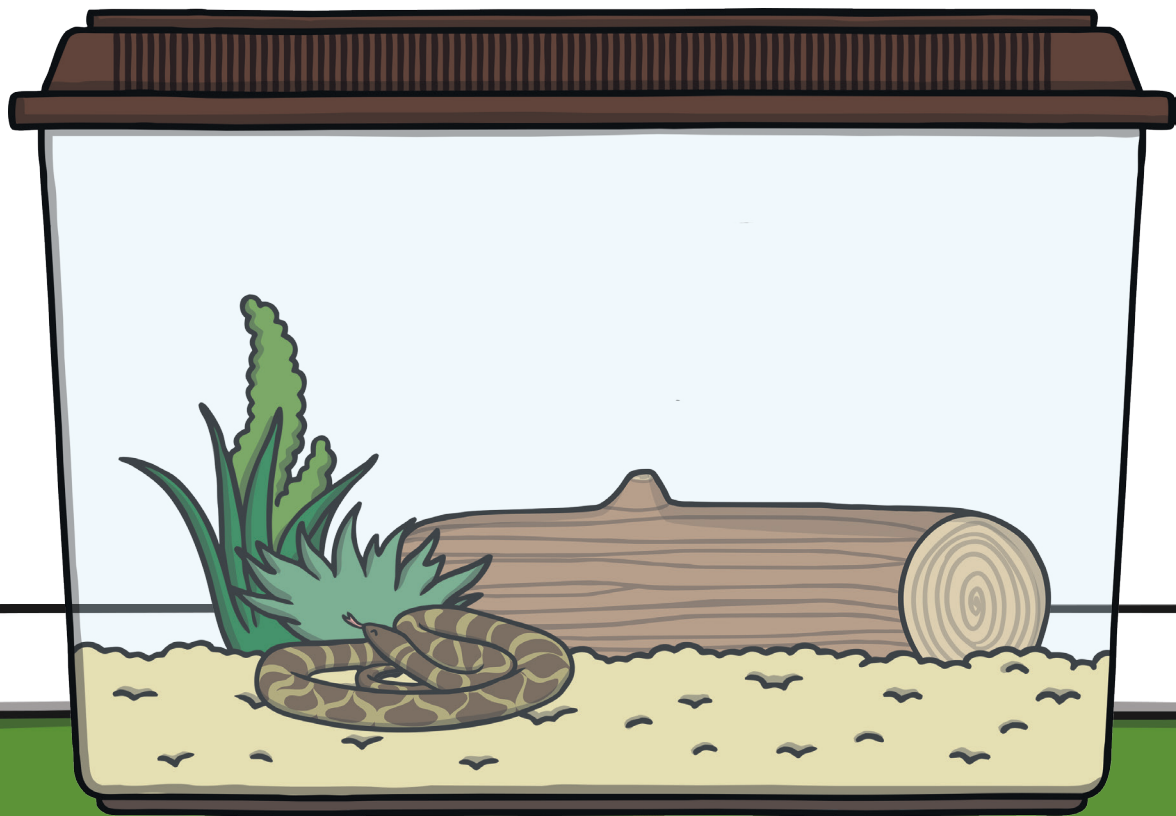


What Else Do I Need to Keep a Snake Healthy?

Most pet snakes need to live in a place that is quite damp and warm because that would replicate their home in the wild. Being warm gives them energy to move around easily. Snakes shed their skin once a month and it is replaced with a healthy, bigger skin. The moist air enables them to shed their skin. If they get too dry, it gets tight and they will need to go to the vet.

What Do Snakes Eat?

Depending on the size and species, most snakes will eat smaller animals such as, reptiles, insects, mice and birds. Snakes don't need to eat very often so should be fed once a week. When snakes become hungry their tongue flicks may increase and they will search their tank looking for prey.



Questions

1. How do snakes move around?

2. Where do pet snakes live?

3. Does a tank need to be warm or cold?

4. Why does the tank need to be quite damp?

5. Find and copy **one** word which means 'necessary'.

6. Why do you think snakes are an unusual pet?

7. How often should you feed a pet snake?

8. Name one way you can tell a snake is hungry.

Answers

1. How do snakes move around?

Snakes move around by wriggling their bodies.

2. Where do pet snakes live?

Pet snakes live in a tank or a terrarium.

3. Does a tank need to be warm or cold?

A section of the tank needs a heat map or lamp. There also needs to be cool areas.

4. Why does the tank need to be quite damp?

The tank needs to be quite damp so the snake's skin does not dry out. The moist air enables them to shed their skin.

5. Find and copy **one** word which means 'necessary'.

essential

6. Why do you think snakes are an unusual pet?

Children's own response.

7. How often should you feed a pet snake?

Once a week.

8. Name one way you can tell a snake is hungry.

Their tongue flicks may increase.

They will search their tank looking for prey.