



Snakes & lizards belong to a group of reptiles called squamates.

There are over 8,000 different kinds of squamates with *amazing adaptations* that help them find food and protect themselves from becoming a meal for someone else! As you explore the Rainforest and Aquarium, keep an eye out for:

.....
Name

.....
Date

Squamates with legs!

Geckos

Keep a tally of each gecko species that you find:

- » How can you tell they are different species?

- » Can you guess where they spend most of their time?
Hint: Observe the patterns and colors of the geckos' skin.



Masters of camouflage
Some geckos blend into their surroundings to hide from their predators or prey!

Chameleons

Chameleons have incredible and unique adaptations that make them well-suited for life in the trees, where they hunt and find shelter.

- » What are two adaptations that help chameleons find and eat small insects?

- » What are two adaptations that make chameleons great tree climbers?
Hint: Look closely at their eyes, tail and feet!



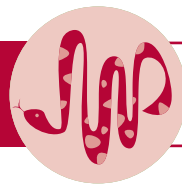
Did you know?
Chameleons can change color based on factors such as temperature or their mood!

Green Basilisk

Find the green basilisk and observe its toes.

- » What function do you think their long, skin-fringed hind feet serve?
Hint: These feet are similar to a frog's webbed toes.





Squamates without legs!

Green Anaconda

Check out the heaviest type of snake in the world, the green anaconda! This snake can grow to be 9 meters (29.5 feet) long, and weighs over 227 kilograms (550 pounds)! Believe it or not, the green anaconda is a good swimmer.

- » Why would being able to swim be an advantage for an anaconda?
- » How does the green anaconda capture and subdue its prey?

Python

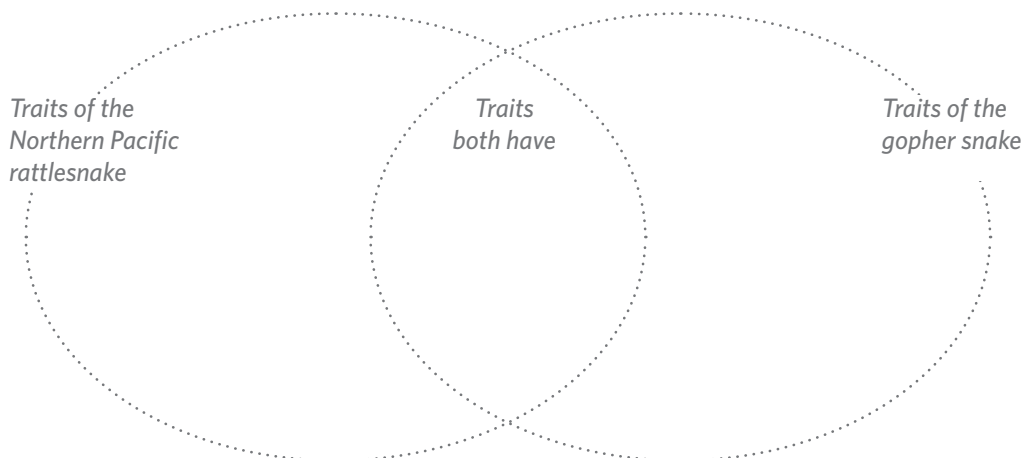
Find the woma python, black-headed python, and centralian carpet python. Most pythons have heat-sensing pits near their mouths and eat mammals.

- » How are the woma and black-headed pythons different from other pythons?
- » Why would heat sensors be a useful adaptation for some snakes, but not necessarily for others?

Rattlesnake and Gopher Snake

Find the exhibit with the Northern Pacific rattlesnake and the gopher snake. These two snakes share the same habitat and are often mistaken for one another.

- » Complete this Venn diagram to learn why it might be important for you — and their prey! — to tell the difference between these two snakes:



Are you prepared for an anaconda squeeze?

Test out the anaconda's constricting powers to the left of this exhibit!



Cousins of the boas

While most boa constrictors live in the Americas, pythons are more likely to be found in Asia, Africa, or Australia.



Masters of mimicry

The gopher snake (below) resembles the rattlesnake (above). Why might this be a useful adaptation?

