

Pythons

Snakes are a kind of reptile, which means they have cold blood and scales. Some snakes are as small as a coin and others are as long as a bus! Pythons are a type of snake.



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Habitat

Pythons like to live in places that are warm. They need to live in warm places because they have cold blood, which means they are found in deserts and jungles. Living in the jungle gives them plenty of places to hide. They usually hide in trees or under leaves on the ground. Pythons have patterned skin which helps them to blend in with the leaves and bark.

Diet

Pythons do not eat fruit or plants. They eat small animals like rats and lizards. Some pythons are very big, so they will catch bigger animals. Pythons will hide in the trees or leaves and wait for a small animal to pass. They will jump out quickly to catch it. They squeeze the animals and then swallow them whole.

Fun Facts

- Pythons can live for up to 40 years.
- Pythons are very good swimmers.
- Some pythons will hide in the high branches of trees and will catch birds as they fly past.
- There are 26 different types of python.

Pythons - Questions

1. Complete the sentence; 'Snakes are a kind of...?'

2. Where do pythons like to live?

3. How do pythons blend in?

4. Name two animals a python will eat.

5. How long can pythons live for?

6. How many different types of python are there?

Answers

1. Complete the sentence; 'Snakes are a kind of...?'
Snakes are a kind of reptile.
2. Where do pythons like to live?
Pythons like to live in places that are warm.
3. How do pythons blend in?
Pythons blend in by hiding in trees and under leaves.
4. Name two animals a python will eat.
Pythons will eat rats and lizards.
5. How long can pythons live for?
Pythons can live for 40 years.
6. How many different types of python are there?
There are 26 different types of python.

Pythons

Snakes are a type of reptile which can be found all over the world. They can be dangerous and some are poisonous. Snakes come in all sizes. Some are so small they can fit on a coin, whereas others are longer than a bus. Pythons are a type of snake. There are over 26 different types of python.

Habitat

Pythons are very good at surviving in different places around the world. They are most often found in deserts, grasslands and rainforests. Pythons need to live in hot places because they don't have warm blood like mammals. This means they use the sun to warm them up. If they get too cold, their bodies don't work as well, making it difficult for them to survive. Because of this, they live in countries that are warm all year round. The rainforest is the perfect place for pythons as it is always warm but also because there are lots of places to hide and hunt. Pythons have very different coloured skin, which helps them to stay hidden and camouflaged. The colour and pattern of their skin matches the leaves, bark or forest floor so they blend in. This means that they are very difficult to spot.

Diet

Pythons are carnivores, which means they only eat meat. The bigger the python is, the bigger their prey will be. Some pythons have been known to catch antelope which are like deer. Pythons will wait until an animal is moving past and then they will dart out quickly and grab them. They then wrap them up tight and swallow them whole!

Pythons

Fun Facts

- Pythons can eat as little as five times a year, if their prey is big enough.
- Pythons are actually very good swimmers.



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Pythons - Questions

1. What would a small snake be able to fit on to?

2. Name one place you might find a python?

3. What happens if a python gets too cold?

4. Why are rainforests a good place for pythons to live?

5. Why can pythons be difficult to spot?

6. How do pythons catch their prey?

7. If a python has a large meal, how many times a year do they need to eat?

8. Name three other animals you may find in a rainforest.

Answers

1. What would a small snake be able to fit on to?
A small snake would be able to fit onto a coin.
2. Name one place you might find a python?
Pythons can be found in deserts, grasslands or rainforests.
3. What happens if a python gets too cold?
If a python gets too cold their bodies don't work as well, making it difficult to survive.
4. Why are rainforests a good place for pythons to live?
Rainforests are a good place for pythons to live because there are lots of places for them to hide and they are warm.
5. Why can pythons be difficult to spot?
Pythons have patterns on their skin which matches the leaves and bark so they are camouflaged.
6. How do pythons catch their prey?
Pythons catch their prey by waiting for an animal to move past, darting out and grabbing it.
7. If a python has a large meal, how many times a year do they need to eat?
Some pythons will only eat five times a year if they have had a very big meal.
8. Name three other animals you may find in a rainforest.
Varied answers. May include monkeys, tigers, rhinos, leopards, parrots etc.

Pythons

Snakes are reptiles, which means they are cold-blooded and have scales instead of hair or fur. They can be extremely dangerous and some are very poisonous. They can range in size, from being small enough to fit on a coin, to being longer than a bus! Pythons are one of thousands of different species of snake. There are as many as 26 different types of python.

Habitat

Pythons are very adaptable and are found in many different countries and environments. They tend to be found in environments that are particularly hot, such as parched deserts or humid rainforests. This means that they are largely found throughout the continents of Asia and Africa because they are cold-blooded, which means that they have to use the sun and rocks heated by the sun to warm themselves. If they get too cold, they cannot function properly and they will struggle to hunt and protect themselves from predators. One of the reasons pythons make their home in the rainforest is because it provides many different places to hide. Some pythons will wrap themselves around the branches and disappear amongst the leaves; others will coil up tightly, hidden on the forest floor and wait for prey to come close enough to catch. Pythons have skin which allows them to blend in wherever they are. We call this camouflage. Their skin has patterns that help to hide them by copying the leaves or bark of a tree.

Diet

Pythons are carnivores, which means that they only eat meat. Most pythons will have a diet consisting of small mammals like rats, but they will eat other animals such as birds, lizards, monkeys and even caiman, which are like alligators.

Pythons

Pythons do not chase their prey; they wait and then strike quickly, gripping with their teeth before wrapping their body around the prey and squeezing tight.

Fun Facts

- The length of a python can range from very small (about 30cm) to the largest ever recorded, at an amazing 8 metres long!
- Even though they live on land or in trees, they are actually very good swimmers.



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Pythons - Questions

1. How many different species of snakes are there?

2. Why are pythons found mostly in Asia and Africa?

3. How does the sun help pythons?

4. What is an 'environment'?

5. Give one way that pythons hide in the rainforest?

6. What is a carnivore?

7. How do pythons catch their prey?

8. What allows pythons to camouflage so successfully?

9. What might a large python eat?

10. Can you name another kind of snake?

Answers

1. How many different species of snakes are there?
There are thousands of different species of snakes.
2. Why are pythons found mostly in Asia and Africa?
Pythons are mostly found in Asia and Africa because they need to live in warm places.
3. How does the sun help pythons?
Pythons are cold-blooded and need the sun to help keep them warm.
4. What is an 'environment'?
**Children to use the context of what they have read for this question.
They may write the place where animals can be found or live.**
5. Give one way that pythons hide in the rainforest?
**Pythons hide by wrapping themselves around branches,
hide in leaves or curl up on the forest floor.**
6. What is a carnivore?
A carnivore is an animal that eats only meat.
7. How do pythons catch their prey?
Pythons wait and pounce when the prey comes near.
8. What allows pythons to camouflage so successfully?
Pythons can camouflage due to their cleverly patterned skin.
9. What might a large python eat?
A large python may eat larger animals such deer, monkeys or caiman.
10. Can you name another kind of snake?
Varied answers. Children may name anaconda, corn snake, rattle snake, boa constrictor etc.