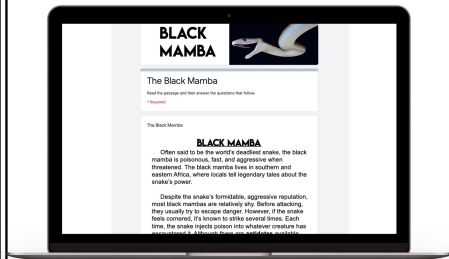


# SNAKES BUNDLE

## DIGITAL READING PASSAGES & QUESTIONS

### BLACK MAMBA

#### DIGITAL READING PASSAGE & QUESTIONS



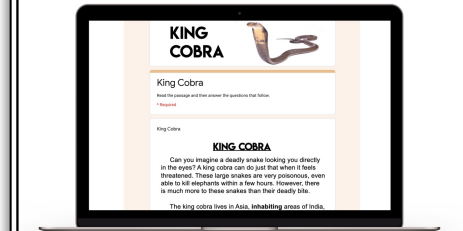
GRADES 3-5

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### THE KING COBRA

#### DIGITAL READING PASSAGE & QUESTIONS



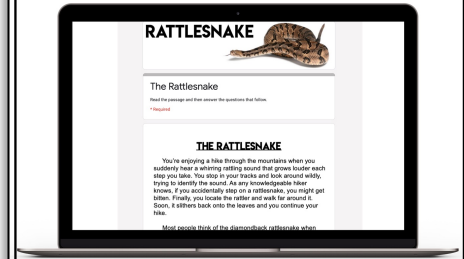
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### RATTLESNAKE

#### DIGITAL READING PASSAGE & QUESTIONS



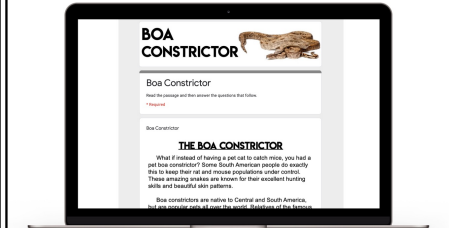
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### THE BOA CONSTRUCTOR

#### DIGITAL READING PASSAGE & QUESTIONS



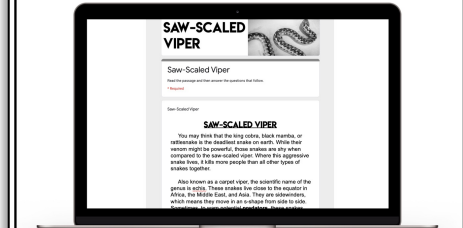
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### SAW-SCALED VIPER

#### DIGITAL READING PASSAGE & QUESTIONS



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# SNAKES BUNDLE

## READING PASSAGE SHORTCUTS WITH QUESTIONS

### **THE RATTLESNAKE**

You're enjoying a hike through the mountains when you suddenly hear a whirring rattling sound that grows louder each step you take. You stop in your tracks and look around wildly, trying to identify the sound. As any knowledgeable hiker knows, if you accidentally step on a rattlesnake, you might get bitten. Finally, you locate the rattler and walk far around it. Soon, it slithers back onto the leaves and you continue your hike.

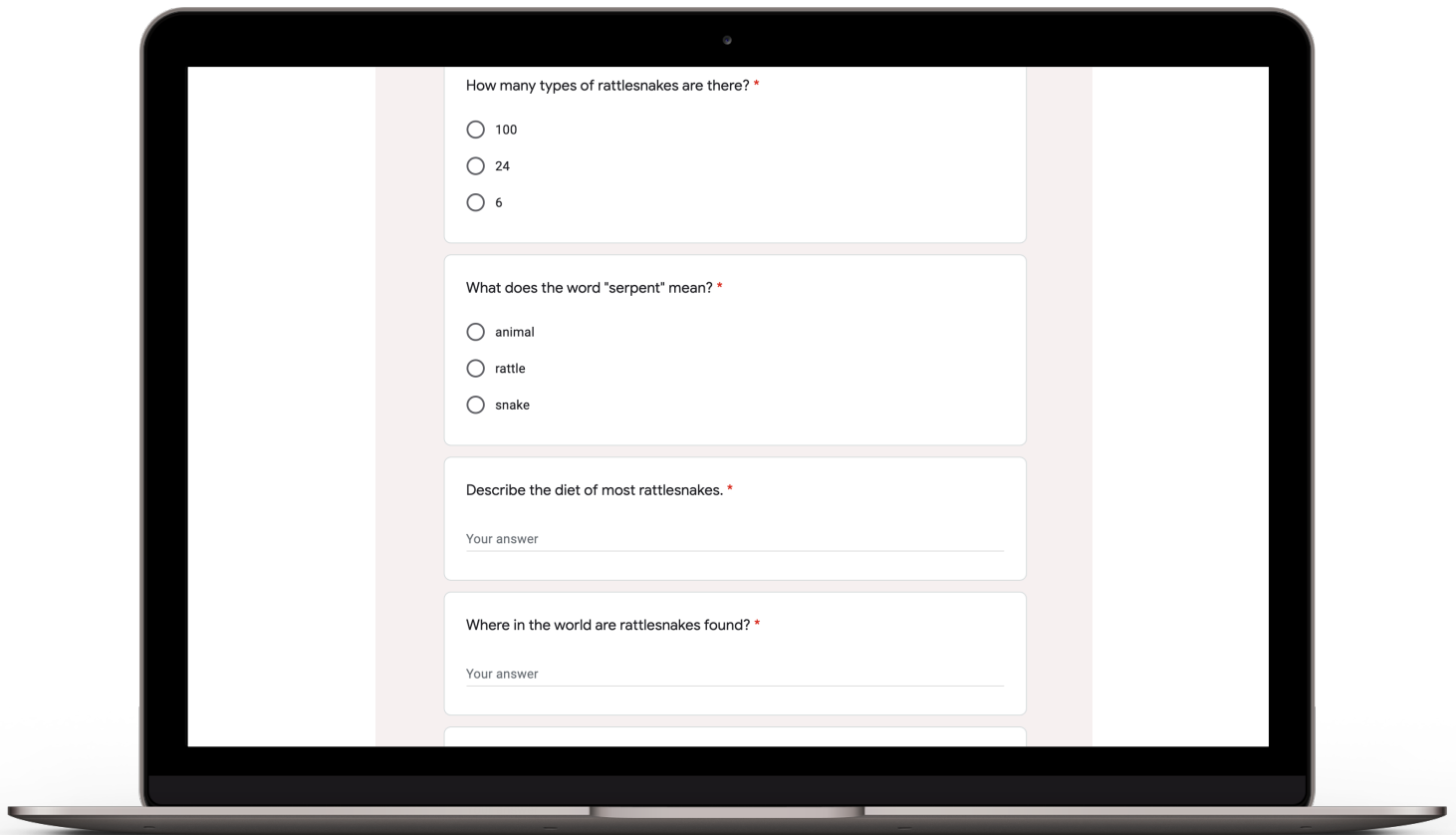
Most people think of the diamondback rattlesnake when they think of this type of serpent. However, did you know that there are actually 24 different kinds of rattlesnakes? They live all over North and South America. Despite their wide range and differences in size and markings, they all share the distinctive feature of the rattle.

A rattlesnake's special tail helps the snake warn other creatures that it is nearby, and that it is dangerous. Other times, the snake uses its rattle to distract prey and catch them off guard. The rattlesnake adds to its rattle every time it sheds its skin. A small doughnut shaped piece is loosely attached to the tail. When the snake shakes its tail, the pieces make the famous rattling or buzzing noise.

Each informational passage is high-interest and designed for a reading in a short time-frame. The questions are both multiple choice and open ended.

# SNAKES BUNDLE

## READING PASSAGE SHORTCUTS WITH QUESTIONS



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# SNAKES BUNDLE

## INCLUDES PRINTABLE VERSIONS

### BLACK MAMBA

Often said to be the world's deadliest snake, the black mamba is poisonous, fast, and aggressive when threatened. The black mamba lives in southern and eastern Africa, where locals tell legendary tales about the snake's power.

Despite the snake's formidable, aggressive reputation, most black mambas are relatively shy. Before a hunt, they usually try to escape danger. However, if they feel cornered, it's known to strike several times in one go, injecting poison into whatever creature it encounters. Although there are **antidotes** available, people must act fast in order to avoid death. The black mamba's poison can kill in just 20 minutes.

The black mamba doesn't get its name from its skin, which is usually brown or gray. Instead, the black mamba gets its name from the black color of its mouth. These snakes can grow up to 14 feet long and weigh over 3 pounds. Ground creatures, the black mamba usually makes its bed in a hollowed out termite mound.

### ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

- Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- How fast can the mamba's poison kill?  
a) 4 minutes b) 20 minutes c) 4 hours
  - What is an **antidote**?  
a) cure b) poison c) skin

### KING COBRA

Can you imagine a deadly snake looking you directly in the eyes? A king cobra can do just that when it feels threatened. These large snakes are very poisonous, even able to kill elephants within a few hours. However, there is much more to these snakes than their deadly bite.

The king cobra lives in Asia, **inhabiting** areas of India, Indonesia, and other close by countries. It's known for its

### ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

- Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- How long can the king cobra grow to be?  
a) 18 inches b) 3 feet c) 18 feet
  - What does the word **inhabiting** mean?  
a) hitting b) living in c) coloring
  - Describe the coloring of the king cobra.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - How has the king cobra's venom helped in the field of medicine?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Name 4 reasons the king cobra could become extinct.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_

### THE BOA CONSTRICTOR

What if instead of having a pet cat to catch mice, you had a pet boa constrictor? Some South American people do exactly this to keep their rat and mouse populations under control. These amazing snakes are known for their excellent hunting skills and beautiful skin patterns.

Boa constrictors are native to Central and South America, but are popular pets all over the world. Relatives of the famous anaconda, these snakes are much smaller. The largest of the boa constrictors weigh a maximum of 100 pounds and measure up to 18 feet long. At this size, these **nonvenomous** snakes can scarf down animals such as wild hogs and monkeys. They also eat smaller prey such as birds, lizards,

### ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

- Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- How much is the maximum weight of a boa constrictor?  
a) 18 pounds b) 100 pounds c) 60 pounds
  - What does the word **nonvenomous** mean?  
a) not poisonous b) loud c) poisonous

### THE RATTLESNAKE

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Rattlesnakes are venomous snakes capable of killing a fully grown man. However, with today's medical advances, they are rarely fatal for humans. Typically, rattlesnakes bite mammals such as rabbits, squirrels, and other small animals like humans which they consider dangerous.

As long as you stay away from rattlesnakes, you should be safe. Thanks to this reptile's alarm system, we can make sure we both give each other plenty of space to live in peace.

### ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

- Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- How many types of rattlesnakes are there?  
a) 100 b) 24 c) 6
  - What does the word **serpent** mean?  
a) animal b) rattle c) snake
  - Describe the diet of most rattlesnakes.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Where in the world are rattlesnakes found?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Name two jobs of the snake's rattle.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - What is the purpose of this passage?  
a) to inform b) to entertain c) to persuade

### SAW-SCALED VIPER

You may think that the king cobra, black mamba, or diamondback rattlesnake is the deadliest snake on earth. While they are deadly, those snakes are shy when compared to the saw-scaled viper. Where this aggressive snake lives, there are more people than all other types of snakes.

The saw-scaled viper, the scientific name of the viper is *Echis carinatus*. These snakes live close to the equator in Africa, India, and Asia. They are sidewinders, meaning they move in an s-shape from side to side. As **predators**, these snakes kill their prey by rubbing their scales together in a saw-like motion. You'd better run if you hear that rattling sound, as these snakes are quick to attack.

The saw-scaled viper is known for living in underground dens, where it can be easily bitten by these snakes. Unfortunately, an unsuspecting person can be easily bitten by these snakes. Their poison is very deadly.

Scientists are working on new medicines to help people who have been bitten by a saw-scaled viper. For people who visit or live in their habitats, it's important to be aware of these aggressive snakes.

### ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

- Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the scientific name of the saw-scaled viper?  
a) carpet viper b) predator c) echis
  - What does the word **predator** mean?  
a) friendly b) hunter c) aggressive
  - Where in the world can these snakes be found?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - How does the saw-scaled viper warn predators?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Where might a saw-scaled viper hide?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - What is the purpose of this passage?  
a) to inform b) to entertain c) to persuade
  - What are two things that might happen if a person were bitten by a saw-scaled viper?  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - What should you do if you are bitten by the viper?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - The saw-scaled viper does not kill as many people as the rattlesnake or black mamba. True or False? \_\_\_\_\_

# ANSWER KEYS INCLUDED!