



Teacher Resource

# Snake Season

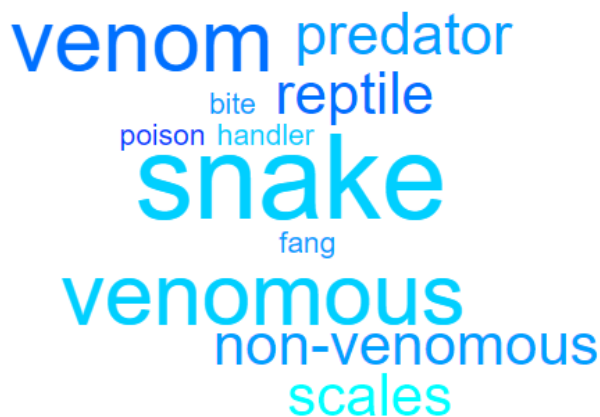
## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. How many species of venomous snakes are found in Australia?
  - a. 10
  - b. 100
  - c. 1000
2. Why are experts saying that there will be more snakes around this season?
3. What can people do to help keep snakes away from their homes?
4. What should you do if you see a snake?
5. Name three things you learnt watching the BTN story.

## Activity: Word Cloud

Students will create a word cloud poster about snakes. A word cloud is a visual made up of important/key words relating to a topic. Ask students to think of words they associate with snakes or would use to describe them. Create a word cloud using a free online word cloud creator such as [MonkeyLearn](#) or [Word It Out](#)



### EPISODE 28

17<sup>th</sup> October 2023

#### KEY LEARNING

Students will choose a species of snake to learn more about. They will also explore the important role snakes have in the ecosystem.

#### CURRICULUM

##### Science – Year 5

Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment.

##### Science – Year 6

The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment.

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

## Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Snake Season story. Here are some words to get them started.

REPTILE	NOCTURNAL	VENOMOUS
NON-VENOMOUS	VENOM	SPECIES

## Activity: Snake profile

Students will research and write a profile featuring a species of snake. Students can use the animal profile worksheet at the end of this activity to record their findings. Encourage students to use a range of sources to find their information. Snake species to choose from include:

- Green tree snake
- Children's python
- Eastern brown snake
- Red-bellied black snake
- Sea snake

### Research

Students will research the following and then share their research findings with the class or create a display in the classroom. Students can use the Animal Profile at the end of this activity.

- Illustration or photo
- Name (common and scientific name)
- Conservation status
- Appearance
- Adaptations
- Habitat
- Threats
- Unique features



### Further Investigation

Students will respond to one or more of the following questions.

- Research a snake's ability to smell using their tongue. Create a labelled diagram.
- Snakes are ectothermic. Investigate what that means and write a short explanation.
- What has new research found about a snake's ability to hear?
- Why are snakes an important part of the ecosystem?
- Why are snakes important predators?
- What threats exist to snakes?
- Predict what might happen if snakes are removed from the food chain.
- What is the first aid treatment if bitten by a snake?

## Activity: Snake Quiz

1. Snakes are...

- A. Mammals
- B. Amphibians
- C. Reptiles

2. How many species of snakes does Australia have?

- A. 40
- B. 140
- C. 240

3. Which is the most venomous snake in Australia?

- A. Red-bellied black snake
- B. Inland taipan
- C. Eastern brown snake

4. Which of these snakes is NOT venomous?

- A. Coastal taipan
- B. Mainland tiger
- C. Carpet python

5. Snakes don't have eyelids.

- A. True
- B. False

6. Snakes are...

- A. Carnivores
- B. Herbivores
- C. Omnivores

7. What does a snake use to smell?

- A. Nostrils
- B. Tongue
- C. Scales

8. Snakes are found on every continent.

- A. True
- B. False

Quiz Answers: 1C, 2B, 3B, 4C, 5A, 6A, 7B, 8B

## Useful Websites

- [The importance of snakes](#) – Department of Environment and Science
- [Dangerous Animals](#) – BTN
- [Snakes, lizards and other reptiles](#) – Australian Museum
- [Snake Season](#) - Newsbreak

# ANIMAL PROFILE

Scientific  
Name

APPEARANCE

Common Name

ADAPTATIONS

Unique Features  
or Interesting Facts

HABITAT

THREATS