Watch The Wonder Gang on ABC Kids iview

The Climbing Snake Question

How do snakes climb trees?

In this episode we discover that snakes are reptiles which means they can't keep their bodies warm on their own. Snakes have no arms or legs, but they have very muscly bodies. They can move forwards by slithering in an S-shape or sideways by twisting their bodies back and forth. To climb a tree snakes wrap themselves around the trunk. Next, they push up the front of their body and wrap around the tree again. Then they drag the rest of their body up behind them. Snakes do this over and over again to climb higher and higher. They also use the tree's branches and bark to help push themselves up. And that's how snakes climb trees.

Wonder some more ...

1. What is a reptile?
2. What colour/s are snakes?
3. Why do they climb trees?
4. Do snakes have arms or legs?
5. Why do they lay in the sun?
6. Can snakes swim?

Time to explore...

- **CREATE PLAYDOUGH SNAKES:** Sculpt snake shapes and patterns with coloured playdough and loose parts (button eyes, pipe cleaner tongues, sequins, thin ribbon strips) arranged in a segmented tray to promote open-ended discovery and learning. Encourage children to use modelling tools and create textured impression 'scales' on their playdough snakes, then mould onto a fallen tree branch.

- **EXPERIMENT WITH CHEMICAL REACTIONS:** Conduct a simple, safe science experiment to explore how snakes move. Add 1/3 cup baking soda to a glass of warm water, stir until mostly dissolved and drop in six gummy snake lollies (cut in half). After 20 minutes, remove the snakes and drop into a glass of vinegar (one at a time). As the vinegar and baking soda react, the snakes will come to life as they bubble, fizz, wriggle and move around in the glass!

Read and wonder...

- ***The Greedy Python*** (2009) by Eric Carle
- ***I (Don't) Like Snakes*** (2016) by Nicola Davies & Luciano Lozana
- ***Python*** (2021) by Christopher Cheng & Mark Jackson

Link to EYLF Learning Outcomes including 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 5.3.

ABC Kids Early Education