



# Venomous Snakes

Virginia Evans  
Jenny Dooley



Express Publishing





COBY  
OR PAIF



# Contents

Introduction	4
What Makes a Snake ... a Snake?	6
Built to Kill	10
Special Skins	14
The Big Four	18
Nighttime Ambush	22
Daytime Lures	24
Snake Birth	26
Treating Snake Bites	32
Myth I	38
Myth II	40
Activities:	42
Review:	64
Unique Venomous Snakes:	69
Reading in Context:	70
Amazing Facts:	72

OR SALE

COPY



# Introduction

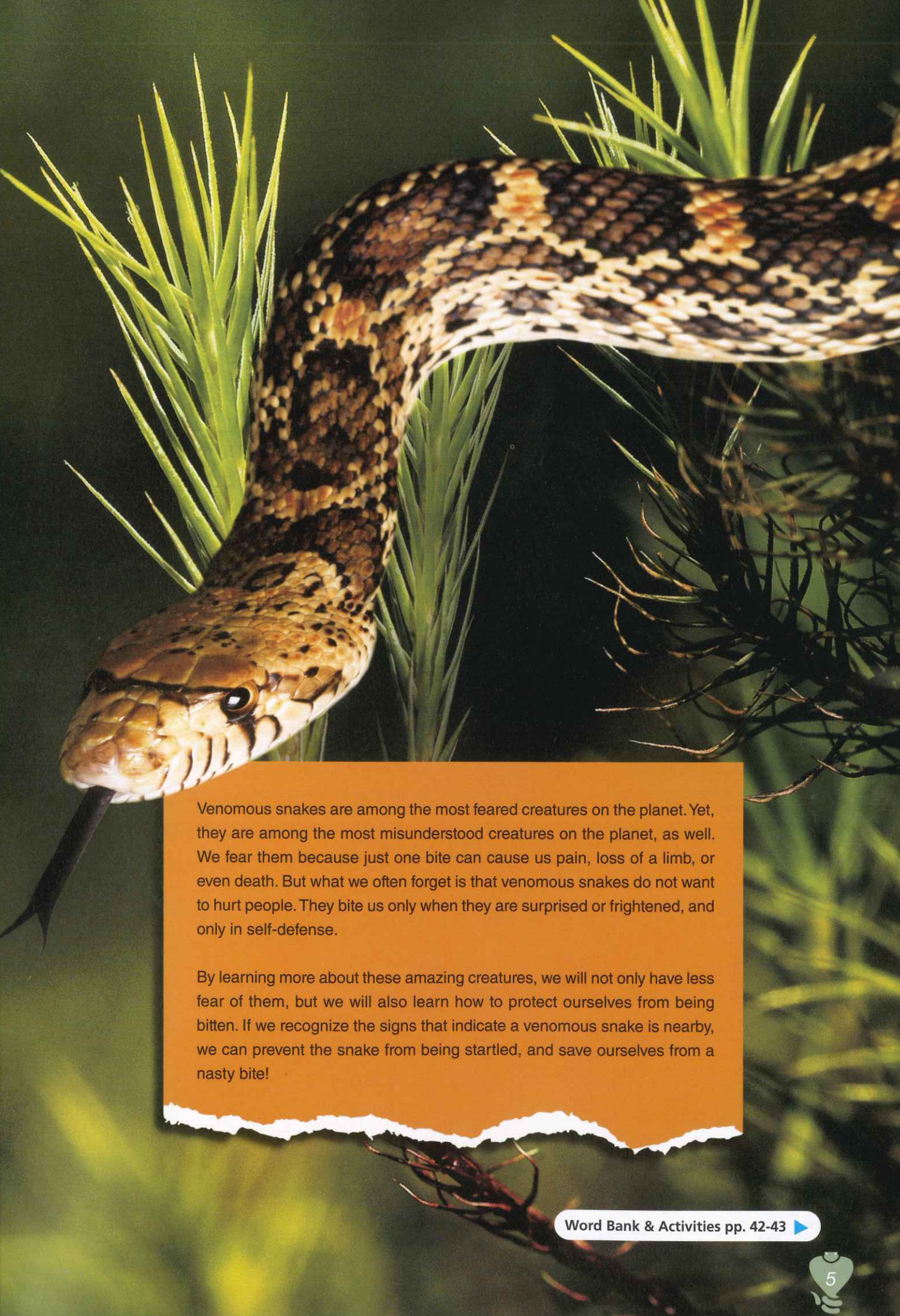
It stares without blinking, and hears a pin drop without ears. It moves its long, scaly body silently through almost every desert, river, forest, and city in the world. It is the snake, whose 3,000 species crawl the Earth both day and night. Over 600 of those species are venomous snakes.

Venomous snakes are native to every country in the world except for Iceland, Greenland, Ireland, and New Zealand. These amazing animals are all around us. Yet they are also incredibly mysterious. In fact, most people are terrified of them. And why not? They are silent. They are stealthy. Their fangs drip with deadly venom.



There are around 250 venomous snake species that have venom which is toxic enough to kill a human.





Venomous snakes are among the most feared creatures on the planet. Yet, they are among the most misunderstood creatures on the planet, as well. We fear them because just one bite can cause us pain, loss of a limb, or even death. But what we often forget is that venomous snakes do not want to hurt people. They bite us only when they are surprised or frightened, and only in self-defense.

By learning more about these amazing creatures, we will not only have less fear of them, but we will also learn how to protect ourselves from being bitten. If we recognize the signs that indicate a venomous snake is nearby, we can prevent the snake from being startled, and save ourselves from a nasty bite!




# Introduction

## Word Bank

(pp. 4-5)

**stare** (v) = to look at sb/sth for a long time with eyes wide open

**blink** (v) = to open and close your eyes very quickly

**pin** (n) = 

**drop** (v) = to fall

**to hear a pin drop** (phr) = to hear even the smallest noise

**scaly** (adj) = covered with scales

**desert** (n) = an area covered with sand with little or no vegetation and very little rain

**species** (n) = an animal or plant group with similar characteristics

**crawl** (v) = to creep

**venomous** (adj) = poisonous

**native** (adj) = indigenous

**incredibly** (adv) = extremely

**mysterious** (adj) = secret; not understood

**terrified** (adj) = very scared

**silent** (adj) = not making any noise

**stealthy** (adj) = sneaky

**fang** (n) = 

**drip** (v) = to fall in drops

**deadly** (adj) = able to cause death

**venom** (n) = poison

**toxic** (adj) = poisonous

**feared** (adj) = causing sb to feel fear

**creature** (n) = any living thing

**misunderstand** (v) = to not understand correctly

**bite** (n) = a wound made using teeth

**loss** (n) = the situation of not having sth anymore

**limb** (n) = an arm or leg

**self-defense** (n) = the act of fighting to protect yourself

**protect** (v) = to keep sb safe

**recognize** (v) = to identify sb/sth

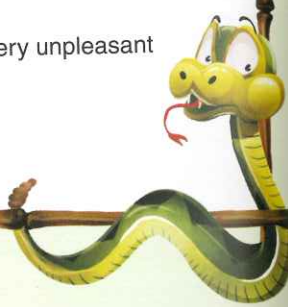
**indicate** (v) = to signal

**nearby** (adj) = close

**prevent** (v) = to stop sth from happening

**startle** (v) = to suddenly surprise or frighten


**nasty** (adj) = very unpleasant



## Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Decide if the following sentences are *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 Snakes don't have ears. ....
- 2 Snakes can live in cities. ....
- 3 All snakes are venomous. ....
- 4 The poison of some snakes is strong enough to kill a human. ....
- 5 Venomous snakes don't naturally live in New Zealand. ....

b)  Listen, read, and check if your answers were correct.





## While-Reading activities

- 2 Read the text. Choose the correct answer from A, B, C, or D.
- Which of the following countries does NOT have native venomous snakes?
 

A Greenland	C Thailand
B Switzerland	D Finland
  - Which of the following could be the result of a venomous snake bite?
 

A death	C pain
B loss of limb	D all of the above
  - When do snakes bite us?
 

A when they are startled
B when they are afraid
C when they are protecting themselves
D all of the above
  - How can we avoid a nasty bite from a venomous snake?
 

A by surprising it
B by looking for signs that it is nearby
C by frightening it
D we cannot avoid a bite

- 3 Match the beginnings of the sentences to their correct endings.

- |   |                          |                                 |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are about six hundred ... |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Venomous snakes are scary ...   |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | A person can die from ...       |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Venomous snakes do not ...      |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | We can protect ourselves ...    |

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| A | ... want to hurt people.           |
| B | ... kinds of snakes with venom.    |
| C | ... by learning more about snakes. |
| D | ... the venom of some snakes.      |
| E | ... because they move so quietly.  |

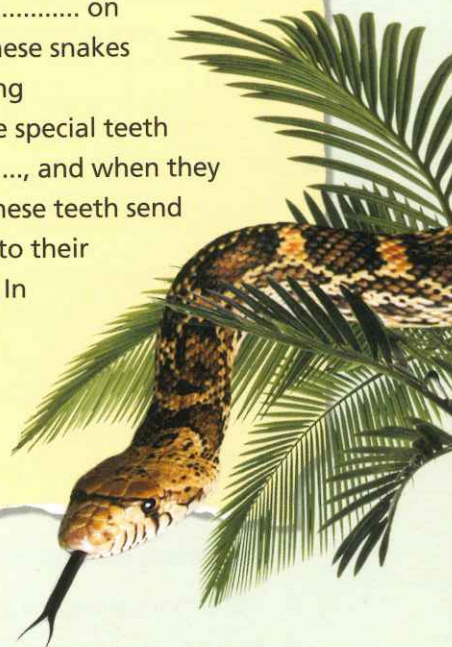
- 4 SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Choose the correct word in bold to complete each sentence.

- Snakes do not **blink/bite** their eyes.
- The venom of a snake can be **deadly/feared**.
- Even though they live everywhere, snakes are **native/mysterious**.
- Snakes are **surprised/stealthy** because they are silent.
- When a snake looks at something, it **drips/stares**.
- We should try to **prevent/protect** venomous snakes from being startled.
- A snake bite can be **scaly/nasty!**

## After-Reading activities

- 5 Complete the summary. Use: *venomous, crawl, bite, toxic, fangs, scaly, venom*.

Except for a few countries, 1) ..... snakes live all over the world. Like all snakes, they have 2) ..... bodies, and they 3) ..... on their bellies. However, these snakes also have some interesting characteristics. They have special teeth called 4) ....., and when they 5) ....., these teeth send 6) ..... into their prey. This can be deadly. In fact, many are 7) ..... enough to kill a human!



- 6 **Think!** Imagine you were walking in a forest and you suddenly came across a snake. How would you feel? What would you do? Describe the scene to the class.