

DISCOVER
our **AMAZING**
WORLD
CLIL READERS

Venomous Snakes

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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!

What Makes a Snake ... a **Snake**?



Although not all reptiles share the traits below, snakes and other, sometimes rare, reptiles do have them in common.

- **Cold-blooded:** Snakes, and other reptiles, are ectothermic – having varying body temperatures.
- **Lack of Limbs:** Snakes and some other rare reptiles do not have limbs – legs or arms.
- **Scales:** Reptiles, including snakes, have bodies covered in scales.
- **Spectacle:** Instead of eyelids, snakes and a few other reptiles have a spectacle, or clear film, that protects their eyes.
- **Backbone:** Snakes, and most other reptiles, have vertebrae, or backbones.



Snakes are called venomous rather than poisonous because they inject their toxins. Poisonous animals leave toxins through touch or ingestion.