

Anacondas

Website: <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/anaconda>

The anaconda is a huge snake. It is one of the heaviest snakes in the world. It lives in the Amazon rainforest of South America. Even though it is very big, it is an excellent swimmer and prefers to be near water. It does not have venom or poison. It kills its prey by wrapping itself around the animal and squeezing it to death. This is called constriction. Let's learn more!

Let's start by looking at the right side of the website:

- 1) About how long do anacondas live? _____
- 2) What kind of animal is the anaconda?
 - a. Mammal
 - b. Reptile
 - c. Amphibian
 - d. Bird
- 3) About how many young babies do anacondas have? _____
- 4) Look at the section labeled "Fun Facts". How much larger can an anaconda open its mouth compared to the size of its head?
 - a. The same
 - b. Twice as large
 - c. Three times as large
 - d. Four times as large

LIFE SPAN
About 30 years
Age of maturity: 3 to 4 years

YOUNG
6 to 7 months
Number of young: 24 to 50
Size at birth: 24 to 37 inches (60 to 94 centimeters) long

FUN FACTS
Despite their fearsome reputation, anacondas are not venomous.
The anaconda's mouth is able to open up to three times the size of its head.
A group of anacondas is called a bed or knot.

Let's go to the section that looks like this:

 ABOUT

- 5) Look at the first paragraph. Is the anaconda the heaviest snake in the world?
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Ask the family pet.
- 6) Look for this answer in the same paragraph. What is another snake that is a relative or related to the Anaconda?
 - a. King Cobra
 - b. Alaska anaconda
 - c. Boa constrictors
 - d. Polar bears

Let's go to this section now:

 HABITAT AND DIET

7) Find the paragraph that starts with "Anacondas are excellent swimmers and divers."

What adaptations do anacondas have that help them to live in the water?

- a. They have fins.
 - b. They can breathe underwater.
 - c. Their noses and eyes are on the top of their heads.
 - d. They can jump out of the water.
- 8) Find the paragraph that begins with "The diet consists of...". What animals do anacondas like to eat? (Circle **many**).
- a. Poison frogs
 - b. Pigs
 - c. Lima beans
 - d. Deer
 - e. Birds
 - f. Turtles
 - g. Caimans
- 9) What is a caiman? _____

Find this section:

 FAMILY LIFE

10) Go to the paragraph that starts with "Baby boas." Do anacondas lay eggs?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Only on Easter Day

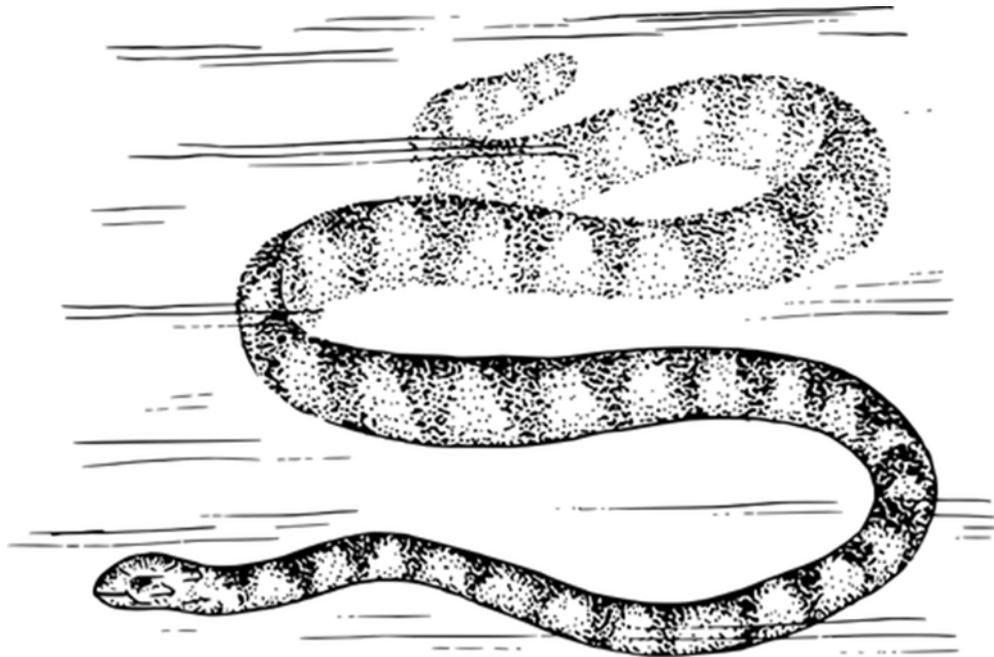
Last section!

 CONSERVATION

11) What is the most dangerous predator of the anaconda?

- a. Other anacondas
 - b. Human beings
 - c. Eagles
 - d. Poisonous snakes
 - e. Alligators
- 12) Why is the anaconda a bad pet? (Circle **many**).
- a. They eat the best food in the house.
 - b. They grow too big.
 - c. They smell bad.
 - d. They're dangerous because they're strong.

Color in your own ananconda. How old is your snake? Don't forget to give him or her a name. What is his or her favorite sport?



Your Snake's Name _____

Your Snake's Age _____

Your Snake's Favorite Sport _____

(Hint for Favorite sports: Birds are good at flying, cats are good at hunting, and monkeys are good at climbing.)

Answer Key

- 1) About 30 years old
- 2) B
- 3) 24 – 50 babies
- 4) C
- 5) A
- 6) C
- 7) C
- 8) B, D, E, F, G
- 9) See glossary below. They are a type of alligator.
- 10) B
- 11) B
- 12) B, C, D

Glossary

Adaptation (Add-ap-tay-shun) – A part of an animal that helps it to survive in a special way. For examples, bird wings are an *adaptation* for flying.

Amazon Rainforest (Am-uh-zahn Rain-four-ust) – A humid, rainy, tropical forest in South America. It is in many countries, including Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru.

Caiman (Kay – men) – Similar to the alligator, caimans live in Central and South American. Alligators live in China and the United States.

Constriction (Con-strikt-shun) – To squeeze something a lot or until it dies

Diet (Die-ut) – What an animal usually eats or prefers to eat.

Predator (Preh-duh-tor) – An animal that hunts other animals.

Relative (Rel-uh-tiv) – To be part of a family or to be very similar to.