

# **Boiling River**

## **Nonfiction Text Set**

### **Rainbow Boa**



**created by Becky Schneker**

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the Boiling River which began in 2018.

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This nonfiction text set has several versions of the same text that can be used as leveled readers for your learners. There is a nonfiction text with and without bolded vocabulary words, vocabulary matching activity, and reading comprehension set for three different reading levels.

On the next page, you will find the list of activities and corresponding page numbers.

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# **Boiling River**

# **Nonfiction Text Set 1**

## **Rainbow Boa**

Page 4: Boa Text Lexile 350-450 (bold vocabulary words)

Page 5: Boa Text Lexile 350-450 (no bold words)

Page 6: Boa Text Lexile 350-450 Vocabulary Matching

Page 7: Boa Text Lexile 350-450 Comprehension Questions

Page 8: Boa Text Lexile 350-450 Comprehension Questions Answers

Page 9: Boa Text Lexile 600-700 (bold vocabulary words)

Page 10: Boa Text Lexile 600-700 (no bold words)

Page 11: Boa Text Lexile 600-700 Vocabulary Matching

Page 12: Boa Text Lexile 600-700 Comprehension Questions

Page 13: Boa Text Lexile 600-700 Comprehension Questions Answers

Page 14: Boa Text Lexile 850-950 (bold vocabulary words)

Page 15: Boa Text Lexile 850-950 (no bold words)

Page 16: Boa Text Lexile 850-950 Vocabulary Matching

Page 17-18: Boa Text Lexile 850-950 Comprehension Questions

Page 19-20: Boa Text Lexile 850-950 Comprehension Answer Key

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# Rainbow Boa



photo credit: [Coolkidsfacts.com](http://Coolkidsfacts.com)

The **rainbow boa** is a colorful snake. It lives in warm, wet places like **rainforests** in Central and South America. Its skin has scales that shine with many colors, like a rainbow!

Rainbow boas are not **poisonous**. They do not use venom. Instead, they use their strong bodies to catch food. They wrap around their food and squeeze it tight. Then they swallow it whole! They eat animals like mice, birds, and frogs.

Rainbow boas are **nocturnal**, awake at night, and rest during the day. They like to hide in trees, under leaves, or in holes in the ground. They can climb and swim very well!

Rainbow boas are important to nature. They help keep animals in balance by eating small ones. They are amazing snakes to learn about and protect!



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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Rainbow Boa

## Vocabulary matching

Match the words to their definitions by drawing a line between each word and the correct definition.

### VOCABULARY

RAINFOREST •

NOCTURNAL •

RAINBOW BOA •

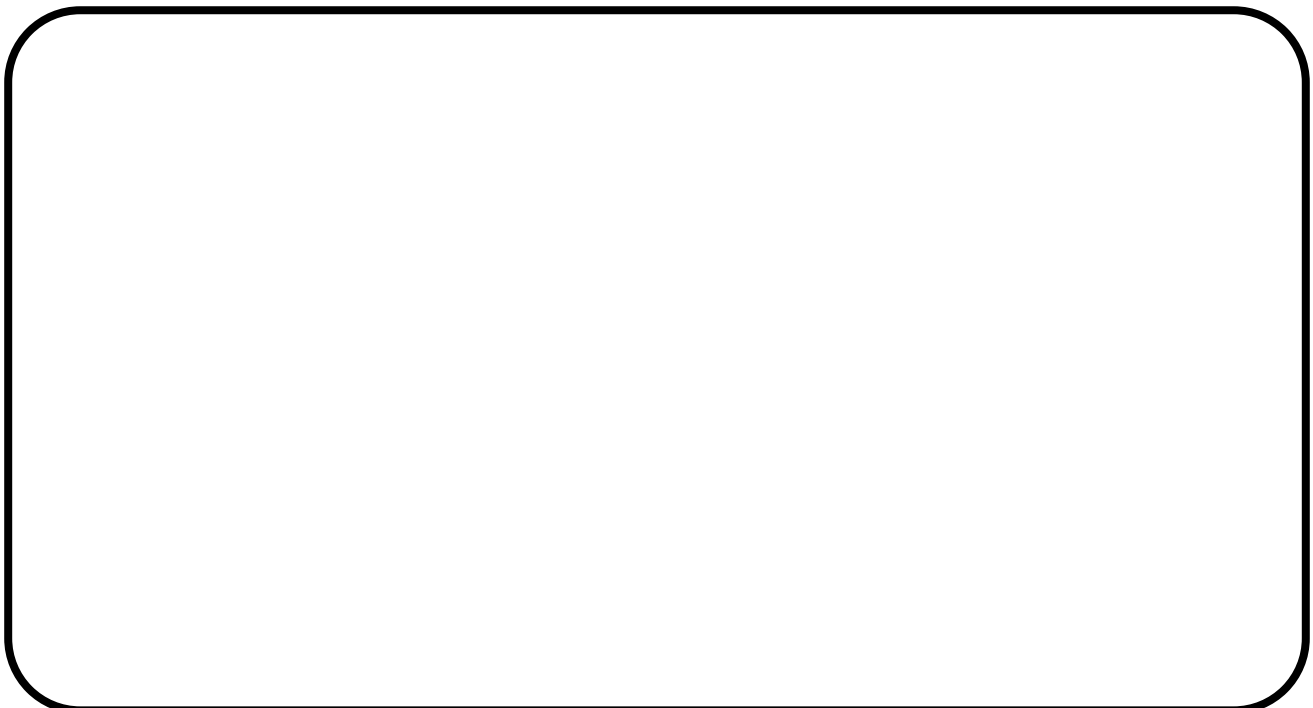
### DEFINITION

• active at night

• colorful snake

• warm, wet places

Draw your own rainbow boa.



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Rainbow Boa Comprehension Questions**

1. What kind of animal is a rainbow boa?
  - a) bird
  - b) snake
  - c) fish
  
2. What makes the rainbow boa special?
  - a) It has shiny, rainbow colors
  - b) It can fly
  - c) It has fur
  
3. Where does the rainbow boa live?
  - a) The desert
  - b) The rainforest
  - c) The ocean
  
4. What kind of place is the rainforest?
  - a) Warm and wet
  - b) Cold and snowy
  - c) Dry and hot
  
5. How does the rainbow boa catch its food?
  - a) It squeezes it
  - b) It bites it with poison
  - c) It traps it in a web

# ANSWER KEY

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# Rainbow Boa



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The **rainbow boa** is a beautiful snake that lives in warm, wet places like the **rainforests** of Central and South America. It gets its name from the shiny colors on its skin. When light hits the boa's scales, they shine like a rainbow!

Rainbow boas are **non-venomous**, which means they do not have poison or venom. Instead of using venom, they use their strong bodies to wrap around their food and squeeze it tight. Then, they swallow their food whole! Rainbow boas eat animals like mice, birds, and frogs.

These snakes are nocturnal, mostly active at night. They like to hide during the day in trees, under leaves, or in **burrows** (holes in the ground). Rainbow boas are great climbers and swimmers, too!

Rainbow boas help nature stay healthy. They are part of the **ecosystem**, which means they help keep things in balance by eating small animals. They are amazing creatures to learn about and protect!

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## Vocabulary matching

Match the words to their definitions by drawing a line between each word and the correct definition.

### VOCABULARY

RAINFOREST •

SCALES •

NON-VENEMOUS •

BURROW •

ECOSYSTEM •

NOCTURNAL •

### DEFINITION

• A hole or tunnel in the ground made by animals

• A group of living things and their environment working together

• Small, flat pieces that cover a snake's body

• A warm, wet forest with lots of plants and animals

• an animal mostly active at night

• an animal without venom

Draw your own rainbow boa.



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

# **Rainbow Boa**

## **Comprehension Questions**

1. Where do rainbow boas live?
  - a) Deserts
  - b) Rainforests
  - c) Cities
  - d) Mountains
  
2. Why are rainbow boas called “rainbow” boas?
  - a) They are colorful birds
  - b) They eat rainbows
  - c) Their scales shine like rainbows
  - d) They live in the sky
  
3. What do rainbow boas use to catch their food?
  - a) Poison
  - b) Sharp teeth
  - c) Their strong bodies to squeeze
  - d) Their hands
  
4. What time of day are rainbow boas most active?
  - a) Morning
  - b) Afternoon
  - c) Night
  - d) Noon
  
5. Why are rainbow boas important to the ecosystem?
  - a) They grow trees
  - b) They help clean the river
  - c) They keep nature in balance by eating small animals
  - d) They build burrows for other animals

# ANSWER KEY

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# Rainbow Boa



photo credit: [Coolkidsfacts.com](http://Coolkidsfacts.com)

The **rainbow boa** is a striking snake found in the rainforests of Central and South America. Its name comes from the shimmering, rainbow-like colors that appear on its scales when light shines on them. These bright reflections help the boa blend into its wet, leafy environment.

Rainbow boas are **non-venomous**, meaning they don't use venom to catch prey. Instead, they are **constrictors**. They wrap their muscular bodies around animals such as mice, birds, and frogs, squeezing tightly until the prey cannot move. Then, the snake swallows its meal whole.

These snakes are **nocturnal**, which means they are most active at night. During the day, they rest in trees, under piles of leaves, or in burrows underground. Rainbow boas are excellent climbers and strong swimmers, able to move easily through both trees and water.

Rainbow boas play an important role in their **ecosystems**. By eating small animals, they help keep the food chain balanced. Learning about and protecting creatures like the rainbow boa helps us care for the planet's biodiversity.



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## Vocabulary matching

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### VOCABULARY

RAINFOREST •

NOCTURNAL •

NON-VENEMOUS •

CONSTRUCTOR •

ECOSYSTEM •

### DEFINITION

• snakes that use their muscles to squeeze their prey

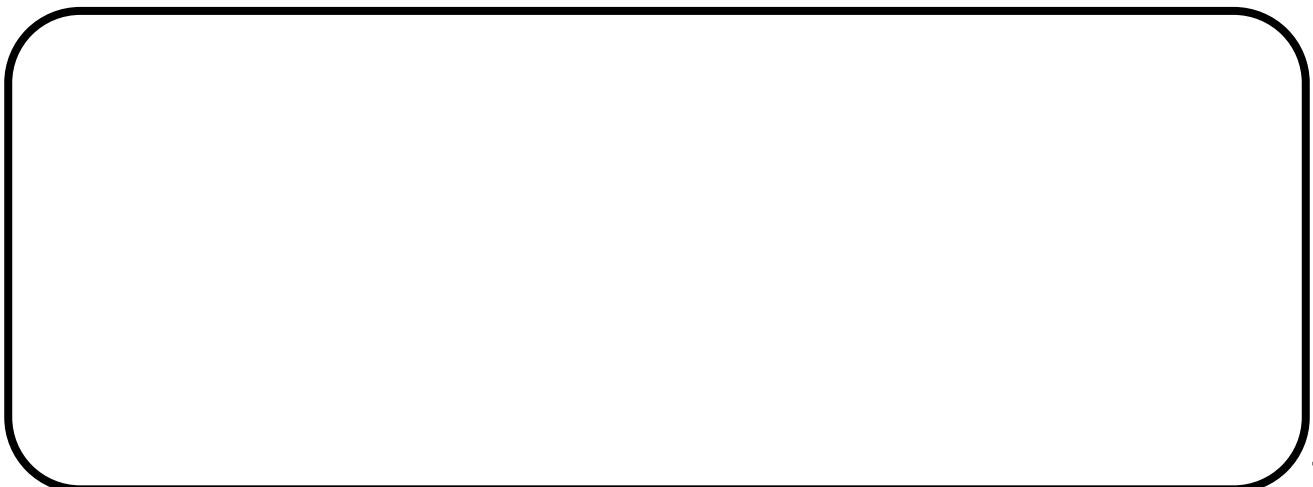
• A group of living things and their environment working together

• an animal without venom

• A warm, wet forest with lots of plants and animals

• an animal mostly active at night

Draw your own rainbow boa.



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

# **Rainbow Boa**

## **Comprehension Questions**

1. Where do rainbow boas live?
  - a) deserts of North America
  - b) rainforests of Central and South America
  - c) grasslands of Africa
  - d) wetlands across multiple countries
  
2. Why are they called “rainbow boas”?
  - a) they have colored stripes like a rainbow
  - b) they live near rainbows
  - c) they are found only when it rains
  - d) they have colorful eyes
  
3. What helps the rainbow boa blend into its environment?
  - a) shiny, reflective scales
  - b) loud hiss
  - c) bright eyes
  - d) long slender body that can wrap around trees
  
4. What does non-venomous mean?
  - a) uses poison to catch food
  - b) does not use venom
  - c) has no teeth
  - d) does not have arms and legs
  
5. How does a rainbow boa catch its prey?
  - a) bites and injects venom
  - b) traps prey in holes
  - c) wraps around prey and squeezes tightly
  - d) swims up from underneath them in the water
  
6. What can you infer about the rainbow boa’s strength?
  - a) It must be strong to squeeze and hold its prey
  - b) It is weak and slow-moving
  - c) It only eats small insects
  - d) It has to work out several hours a day to keep up muscle strength

7. What might happen if rainbow boas disappeared from their rainforest homes?

- a) There would be too many small animals
- b) The rainforest would get more rain
- c) Birds would stop singing
- d) Scientists would have nothing to study

8. What is a constrictor?

- a) A snake that uses venom
- b) A snake that climbs trees
- c) A snake that lives in the ocean
- d) A snake that squeezes its prey

9. What does nocturnal mean?

- a) Active at night
- b) Sleeps during the night
- c) Eats only at night
- d) Sleeps whenever it wants

10. What does ecosystem mean in the passage?

- a) A group of animals that live in the same zoo
- b) A group of snakes that live together
- c) A kind of snake habitat
- d) A community of living things that depend on each other

11. What does biodiversity mean?

- a) Having many different kinds of living things
- b) The study of snakes
- c) The colors on an animal's skin
- d) A group of nocturnal animals living in the same place

# ANSWER KEY

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