



# SNAKE SEARCH

Snakes are often misunderstood and feared, but they are actually fascinating animals with an important role in the environment. Before you look for snakes, do some research to find out which snakes live in your area, and if any are venomous.

## TIPS: HIKEING IN SNAKE COUNTRY:

1. Be aware! The best way to avoid conflict with snakes is to see them and keep a safe distance.
2. Wear shoes that cover your feet and ankles.
3. Walk with heavy steps to alert snakes of your presence.
4. Bring a first aid kit and know how to treat a snake bite.
5. NEVER ATTACK A SNAKE! While you are hiking, you are in the home of lots of wildlife including snakes. Snakes are an important part of the ecosystem, controlling rodent populations and even hunting other venomous snakes. Observe them from a distance and you should have no problems.



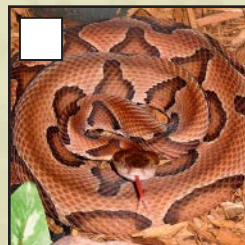
## VENOMOUS SNAKES

Some snakes use venom to hunt their prey. They will try to avoid humans but can bite if threatened. If you see a snake you think might be venomous, the best choice is to give them plenty of space.

**There is no way to know for sure if an unknown snake is venomous, but the eyes and head shape can give us clues.**



Timber Rattlesnake



Copperhead

Snakes love warm weather, so summer time is when they are most active. Watch for snakes swimming in streams, basking on rocks, climbing trees, or even crossing the trail on your next hike. Remember - snakes can bite, so always **keep a safe distance!**



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## COMMON SNAKES

Can you find any of these common snakes in your neighborhood?



Garter Snake



Black Rat Snake



Northern Water Snake

## SNAKE SKINS

Even if you don't see an actual snake, sometimes you can find clues that snakes leave behind! Look for snake skins in tangly twigs and near rough rocks or logs. If you find one, see if you can tell what kind of snake the skin belonged to.



## PLAY SNAKE TAG!

With a group of 6 or more, choose a small area outside (about 25 feet square) to play tag. Players may not leave the designated area. When the first person is tagged, they hold on to the other person to make a "snake," and the snake runs after the remaining players. Each person who is tagged becomes part of the snake.

Is it easier or harder to play when you are part of the snake? What happens when the snake gets bigger?

Learn more about snakes at [www.defenders.org/snakes/basic-facts](http://www.defenders.org/snakes/basic-facts)