

Reptile Hunter

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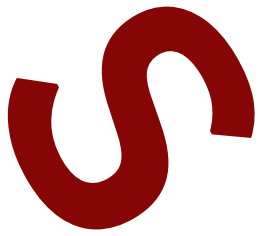
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Jr. Trail Blazers Hiking Program Week 1:

Native Snakes & Rattlesnake Safety

Objectives:

- Determine Venomous vs. Nonvenomous Snakes
- Explore Rattlesnake Safety
- Discover Native Snake Species



What is a Rattlesnake?

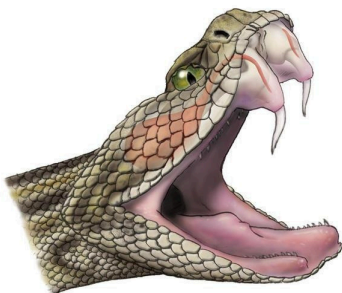
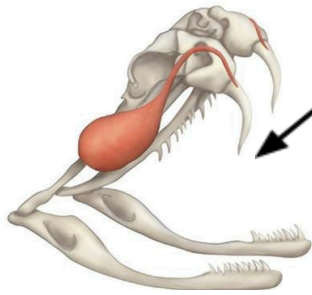
A rattlesnake is a species of venomous snake that lives throughout North, Central, and South America. They get their name from the rattle at the tip of their tail that they use to alert predators.



Southern Pacific Rattlesnake

The snake to the left is the southern pacific rattlesnake. This is one of the most common rattlesnakes in California. This snake is responsible for giving the most rattlesnake bites in the state of California. But this is because this rattlesnake lives in places where lots of people live.

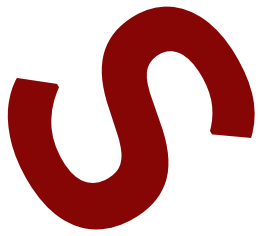
Venom or Poison?



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Venom and Poison are different. Venom needs to be injected into the body through a bite, sting, or cut. The most common venom is that of a bee sting! Rattlesnakes inject their venom through their fangs. While poison needs to be ingested or eaten like a poisonous frog or mushroom.





Rattlesnake Safety

Rattlesnakes are not evil animals out to bite and hurt us! They are way more afraid of us, then we are of them. They will do everything they can to not bite us. A bite from a rattlesnake is its last resort to protect itself.

How Rattlesnakes avoid Humans

- Camouflage
- Hiding & Slithering Away
- Rattling their tail

Camouflage:

Rattlesnakes have beautiful colors and patterns that allow them to perfectly blend in with their habitat. If they stay still, they can be almost invisible to us and predators.

Rattling their Tail:

It's in their name! Rattlesnakes have a rattle at the tip of their tail to warn predators to stay away. Sometimes when they feel threatened, they will make a loud buzzing sound with their rattle. This is them saying "Stay away! I have a dangerous bite! Don't mess with me!"

Hiding & Slithering Away:

Sometimes when a rattlesnake knows a threat is coming close, they will decide to slither away. A lot of times they will choose to hide under a rock or in a hole to protect themselves from people and predators.