

Meet a Rattlesnake



Photo Credit: Clinton and Charles Robertson

A reptile is a kind of animal. A reptile has scales on its body. A snake is a reptile.

One kind of snake is a rattlesnake. A rattlesnake eats small animals such as mice. The snake kills the mouse. Then it swallows the mouse whole.

A rattlesnake has a rattle on its tail. The rattle is made of pieces of hard skin. The snake moves its tail. Then the pieces rattle together. The noise the pieces make is a little like a baby's rattle. But a rattlesnake is a lot more dangerous than a baby!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: For questions 1-4, circle the correct answer.

1. What are animals like snakes that have scales on their bodies called?

- a) mammals
- b) reptiles
- c) fish

2. Which animal does this passage describe?

- a) a rattlesnake
- b) a reptile
- c) a mouse

3. The rattle of a rattlesnake is made of pieces of hard skin. The snake moves its tail. Then the pieces rattle together. The noise the pieces make is a little like a baby's rattle.

When does the rattle of a rattlesnake make noise?

- a) when the snake is still
- b) when the snake moves its tail
- c) when the snake eats small animals

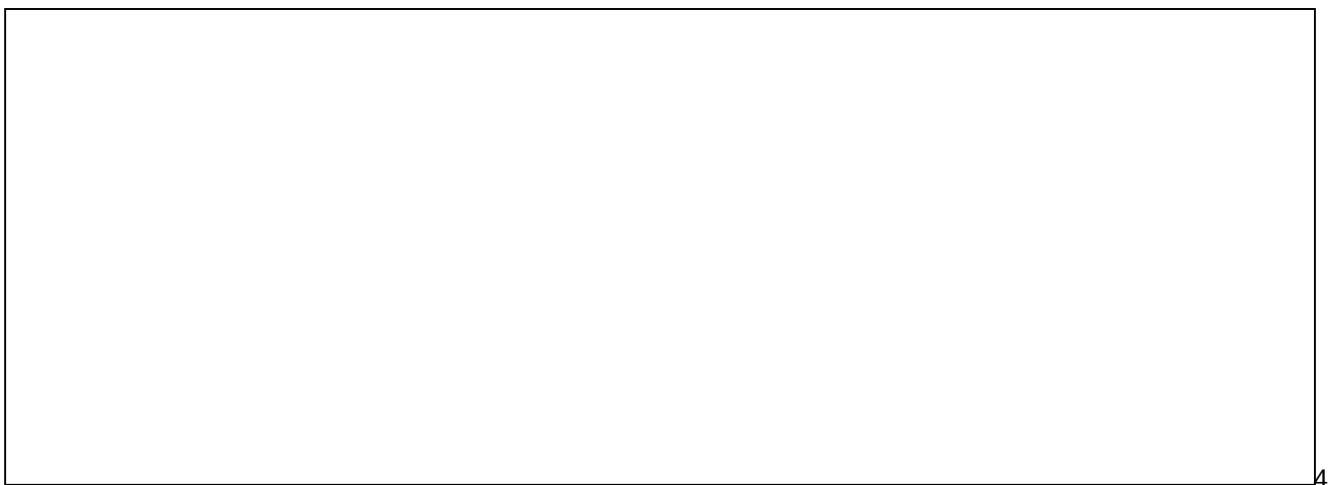
4. What is the main idea of "Meet a Rattlesnake"?

- a) Rattlesnakes are reptiles with a rattle on their tail.
- b) Reptiles have scales on their bodies.
- c) Baby rattles are fun to play with but rattlesnakes are dangerous.

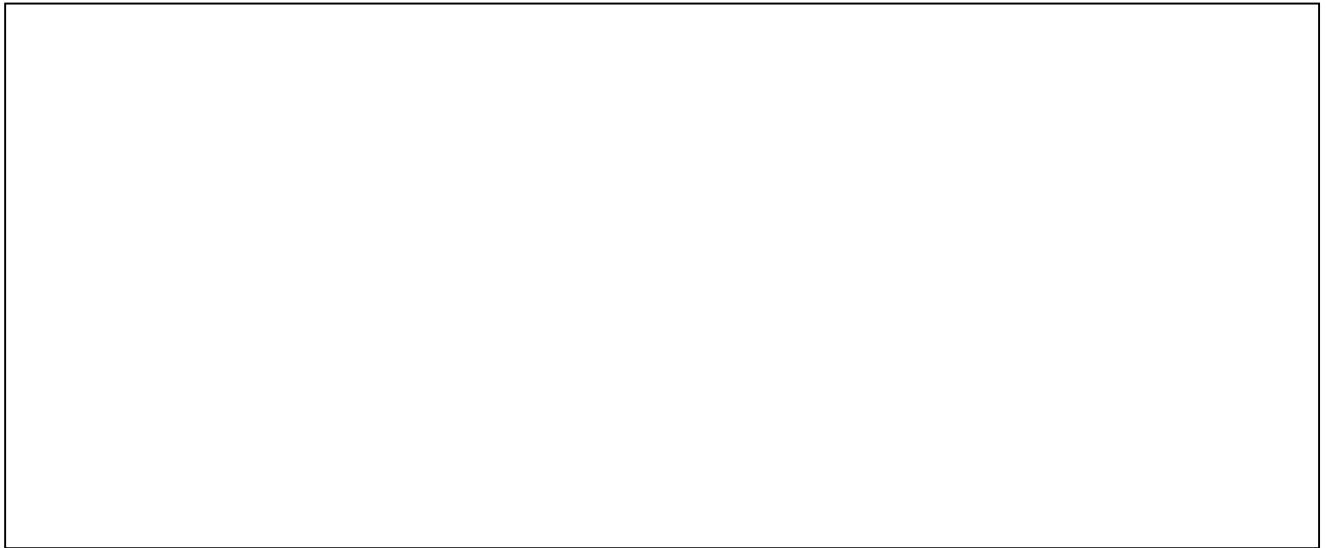
5. A) What is made of pieces of hard skin on the end of a rattlesnake's tail?

The part of the snake made of pieces of hard skin on the end of a rattlesnake's tail is

B) Draw a picture of a rattlesnake.



6. What did you learn from "Meet a Rattlesnake"?



7. **Class Discussion Question:** Why might rattlesnakes be called rattlesnakes?

Teacher Guide & Answers

Note to Teacher: Read each question out loud to your students and have each student complete the worksheet independently. For questions 5 A) and 6, you can have students draw their answers, answer orally, or write their answers depending on your students' progress. If you have them write their answers, you may want to write the word(s) on the board for them to copy. Question 7 is a class discussion question.

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 430

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- c) fish

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When does the rattle of a rattlesnake make noise?

- a) when the snake is still
- b) when the snake moves its tail**
- c) when the snake eats small animals

4. What is the main idea of "Meet a Rattlesnake"?

- a) Rattlesnakes are reptiles with a rattle on their tail.**
- b) Reptiles have scales on their bodies.
- c) Baby rattles are fun to play with but rattlesnakes are dangerous.

5. A) *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

What is made of pieces of hard skin on the end of a rattlesnake's tail?

Suggested answer: The part of the snake made of pieces of hard skin on the end of a rattlesnake's tail is *a rattle*.

- B) Draw a picture of a rattlesnake.

Suggested answer: Students' pictures may vary but should include a snake with a rattle on its tail. Advanced pictures will include such details as the scales on the rattlesnake's body or the pieces of hard skin that make up the rattlesnake's tail.

6. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

What did you learn from "Meet a Rattlesnake"?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage.

7. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

Class Discussion Question: Why might rattlesnakes be called rattlesnakes?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary but students should explain that rattlesnakes have rattles on their tail (made of pieces of hard skin that rattle together when the snake moves its tail). The noise that the pieces make is a little like a baby's rattle so we call it a rattle. Advanced answers may also indicate that rattlesnakes are different from other snakes because they have a rattle so we call them rattlesnakes.