



Snake Search



Snakes are often misunderstood and feared, but they are actually fascinating animals if you study them. **Before you look for snakes, do some research and find out which snakes live in your area, and if any are *venomous* (poisonous).** Here are some basic tips to follow when hiking in an area where snakes may live:

1. *Wear closed-in shoes to protect your feet and ankles.*
2. *Stomp your feet when you walk. Snakes can pick up vibrations through the ground and will slither away from you if they can feel you coming.*
3. *Keep an eye out for snakes. Being alert might mean that you see the snake before it sees you.*
4. *If you see a snake, leave it alone! Snakes only bite if they feel threatened. If you leave them alone, you should have no problem.*
5. *Take a first aid kit with you and know how to administer first aid for a snake bite, just in case!*



Venomous Snakes

One easy way to tell whether or not a snake is venomous is to look at the shape of its head. **A diamond-shaped head means a snake is venomous!** Two examples are the Timber Rattlesnake, and the Copperhead.



not
venomous



venomous



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