

Continue the learning at home with these fun activities and links!

Let's Go "Herping"!



Have you ever wanted to go looking for reptiles in their natural environment? Then you should give "herping" a try! Herpetology is the study of reptiles and amphibians. In scientific and zoo communities, these animals are sometimes called "herps" for short. "Herping" is the act of looking for snakes and amphibians in their native habitats and observing their behavior.

Unscramble the words to find out what you should take with you while "herping." Remember to look, but don't touch, and **Stay Snake Safe** at all times.

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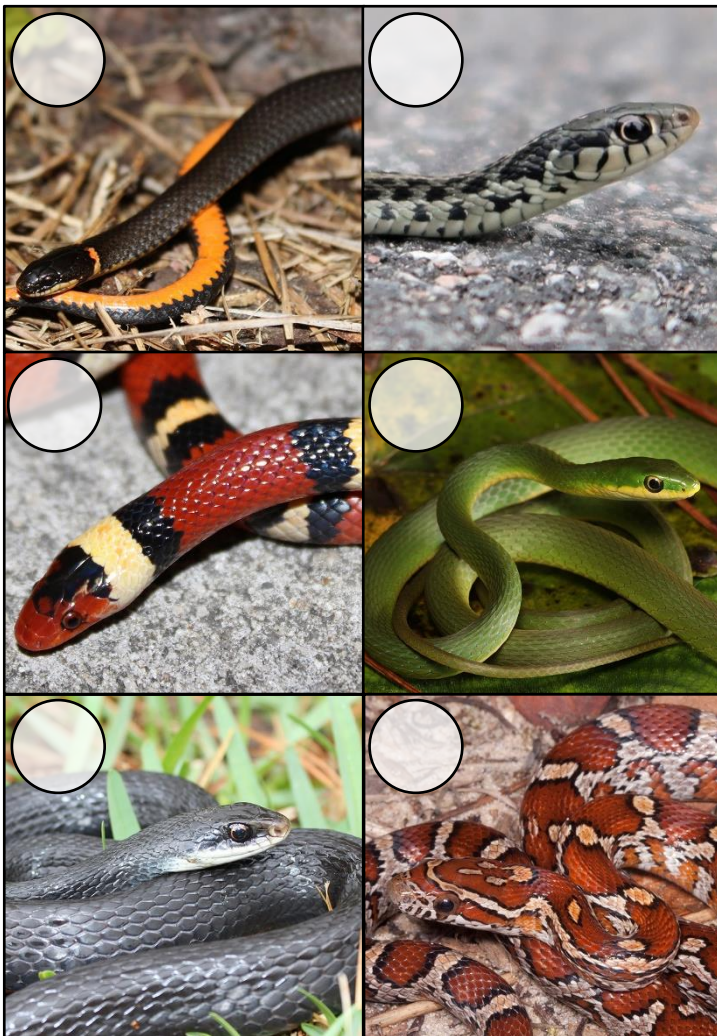
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Florida Snake ID

Can you identify these native species? Write the number next to the species name in the bubble on the corresponding picture to the left.

1. Common Garter Snake
(*Thamnophis sirtalis*)
2. Corn Snake
(*Pantherophis guttatus*)
3. North American Racer
(*Coluber constrictor*)
4. Ring-necked Snake
(*Diadophis punctatus*)
5. Scarlet Kingsnake
(*Lampropeltis elapsoides*)
6. Rough Green Snake
(*Opheodrys aestivus*)

The Florida Museum of Natural History has a great Florida Snake ID Guide that can be accessed online. Scan this QR code to check out this resource and verify your answers for this activity!



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Snake Sleuth Game (Adapted from an activity made by the California Academy of Sciences)

Have you ever tried to look for something using just your sense of smell? Snakes do this all the time while hunting for their prey and exploring their environment. What's even cooler is that snakes use their tongues to smell and not their noses. Channel these super sleuths and see how fast you can find something just by smelling!

What You Need:

- ❖ 2+ people to play
- ❖ Five cotton balls
- ❖ Zip top bag
- ❖ Hole Puncher
- ❖ Your favorite extract or essential oil



How to Play:

- ❖ Designate a playing space – this can be a room inside or set boundaries outside.
- ❖ One person takes on the role of the “mouse” and everyone else playing is a “snake”.
- ❖ All the “snakes” must leave the playing space for one minute while the “mouse” hides the bag. Make sure the bag can still be detectable by the “snakes” and not *too* well hidden.
- ❖ Call the “snakes” back and see how long it takes them to find the bag and who was the fastest snake.

Set-Up:

- ❖ Punch a few holes through the top of the zip top bag below the zipper.
- ❖ Put two to three small drops of extract on each cotton ball.
- ❖ Put all the cotton balls into the bag and tightly seal the bag.

- ❖ Scan this QR code to find instructions for the Accordion Paper Snake.
- ❖ See how long of a snake you can make or challenge yourself to make a snake that looks like your favorite species!



Visit these websites to learn more about...

[General Snake Information](https://dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/reptiles/snakes/) -> dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/reptiles/snakes/

[Living with Snakes](https://myfwc.com/conservation/you-serve/wildlife/snakes/) -> myfwc.com/conservation/you-serve/wildlife/snakes/

[Eastern Indigo Snakes](https://oriannesociety.org/priority-species/eastern-indigo-snake/) -> oriannesociety.org/priority-species/eastern-indigo-snake/

[AZA: Saving Species from Extinction \(SAFE\) Programs](https://aza.org/aza-safe) -> aza.org/aza-safe

[Eastern Indigo Snake SAFE Program Plan 2022-2024](https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2332/indigo_safe_conservation_plan_2022_revision_08142022.pdf) -> assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2332/indigo_safe_conservation_plan_2022_revision_08142022.pdf

- ❖ This goes along with the Eastern Indigo Snake SAFE Educational Resource!

