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Snakes, particularly exceptionally large constricting snakes, have haunted the human brain for a millennium. They appear to be responsible for our excellent vision and are providing insight into diabetes. Fascination with snakes has also drawn many to keep them as pets. This book explores what we know about the largest snakes. Did you know the Southeast is home to the largest snake in the US? Or that it's also home to the most venomous snake in the country? By the time readers are done with this book, they'll know much, much more about the fascinating snakes in this region and their unique adaptations and traits. Drawing on years of experience and an impressive grasp of the literature, Richard Shine covers the day-to-day lives of snakes, discussing their anatomy, evolution, and habitat, and describing their behavior, sex habits, life history, and diet. There are more than 250 kinds of poisonous snakes, and this illustrated book tells where they live, what they eat, and how they behave. It also reveals which snakes pose no danger to humans, how snakes are "milked," how anti-venom is made, and what to do if you're bitten. Coral snakes are small, brightly colored venomous elapids with black noses. Their markings of black, red, and yellow or white rings serve as a warning that coral snakes can cause harm. Readers will learn about the different behaviors of coral snakes, including that they will flatten their bodies to look larger or raise their tails to confuse predators. A small Georgia town, filled with a curious assortment of losers, anticipates the promise of bizarre new possibilities with the upcoming rattlesnake hunt The nonnative Burmese python, one of the largest snakes on the planet, is now reproducing freely in south Florida's River of Grass. For millennia, humans have regarded snakes with an exceptional combination of fascination and revulsion. Some people recoil in fear at the very suggestion of these creatures, while others happily keep them as pets. Snakes can convey both beauty and menace in a single tongue flick and so these creatures have held a special place in our cultures. Yet, for as many meanings that we attribute to snakes—from fertility and birth to sin and death—the real-life species represent an even wider array of wonders. The Book of Snakes presents 600 species of snakes from around the world, covering nearly one in six of all snake species. It will bring greater understanding of a group of reptiles that have existed for more than 160 million years, and that now inhabit every continent except Antarctica, as well as two of the great oceans. This volume pairs spectacular photos with easy-to-digest text. It is the first book on these creatures that combines a broad, worldwide sample with full-color, life-size accounts. Entries include close-ups of the snake's head and a section of the snake at actual size. The detailed images allow readers to examine the intricate scale patterns and rainbow of colors as well as special features like a cobra's hood or a rattlesnake's rattle. The text is written for laypeople and includes a glossary of frequently used terms. Herpetologists and herpetoculturists alike will delight in this collection, and even those with a more cautious stance on snakes will find themselves drawn in by the wild diversity of the suborder Serpentes. Just a few years ago, people spoke of the US as a hyperpower—a titan stalking the world stage with more relative power than any empire in history. Yet as early as 1993, newly-appointed CIA director James Woolsey pointed out that although Western powers had "slain a large dragon" by defeating the Soviet Union in the Cold

War, they now faced a "bewildering variety of poisonous snakes." In *The Dragons and the Snakes*, the eminent soldier-scholar David Kilcullen asks how, and what, opponents of the West have learned during the last quarter-century of conflict. Applying a combination of evolutionary theory and detailed field observation, he explains what happened to the "snakes"-non-state threats including terrorists and guerrillas-and the "dragons"-state-based competitors such as Russia and China. He explores how enemies learn under conditions of conflict, and examines how Western dominance over a very particular, narrowly-defined form of warfare since the Cold War has created a fitness landscape that forces adversaries to adapt in ways that present serious new challenges to America and its allies. Within the world's contemporary conflict zones, Kilcullen argues, state and non-state threats have increasingly come to resemble each other, with states adopting non-state techniques and non-state actors now able to access levels of precision and lethal weapon systems once only available to governments. A counterintuitive look at this new, vastly more complex environment, *The Dragons and the Snakes* will not only reshape our understanding of the West's enemies' capabilities, but will also show how we can respond given the increasing limits on US power.

Snakes: 101 Super Fun Facts And Amazing Pictures (Featuring The World's Top 10 Snakes) This book depicts the wonder of the world of Snakes in all its glory. Children are given a well-rounded understanding of this beautiful reptile: its anatomy, feeding habits and behavior. The following Snakes are featured: Anaconda Boa Constrictor California King Snake Cobra Corn Snake Garter Milk Snake Python Rattlesnake Sea Snake There are also coloring pages for children to enjoy and expand their imagination. Enjoy! Fifty-three kinds of snakes can be found in the Southeast, almost half of all species native to North America. Filled with more than 300 color photographs and written by two renowned herpetologists, this new edition is the most comprehensive authoritative guide to the snakes of the region. At the heart of the book are its heavily illustrated, fact-filled descriptions of each snake species. Also included is a wealth of general information about the importance of snake conservation and the biology, diversity, habitats, and ecology of snakes. Find useful information about the interactions of humans and snakes: species that are likely to be found near houses, snakes as pets, what to do in case of a snakebite, and more. The revised edition of *Snakes of the Southeast* includes new photos, the latest research findings, new species discoveries, and the most current geographic range maps. Clearly written, cleanly designed, and fun to use, this guide promotes a better understanding of the conservation of this fascinating but often maligned group of animals.

Features: Conservation-oriented approach Over 300 color photographs, including many new images for this edition New distribution maps for 53 species of snakes New accounts of invasive snakes of the Southeast Clear descriptions of each species, including differences in the appearance of young and mature snakes Size charts, key identifiers (scales, body shape, patterns, and color), descriptions of habitat, behavior and activity, food and feeding, reproduction, predators and defense, and conservation This Book Includes: Proper Housing, Responsible Husbandry, The Tools and Equipment, Safe Handling Practices, Mistakes to be Avoided, Tips for Safety and Efficiency, Federal and State Regulatory Agency Equivalencies, Emergency Contacts and 76 FULL COLOR Illustrations. "We travel the world," writes Gregory McNamee, "and wherever we go there are snake stories to entertain us." Here are some fifty diverse and unusual accounts of serpents from cultures across time and around the globe: snakes that talk, jump, and dance; snakes that transform into other creatures; snakes that just . . . watch. Many selections are drawn from the rich oral traditions of peoples in every clime that supports reptiles, from the Akimel O'odham of North America to the Mensa Bet-Abrahe of Africa to the Mungkjan of Australia. Included as well are such writings as prayers from the Egyptian Book of the Dead, fairy tales collected by the Brothers Grimm, a poem by Emily Dickinson, and a journal entry by Charles Darwin. What we read about snakes in *The Serpent's Tale* is just as fascinating for what it says about us, for there always will be something primordial about our connection to them. That bond is evident in these stories: in how we associate snakes with nature's elemental forces, how we attribute special qualities to their eyes and skin, and how they preside over all phases of our existence, from creation to death to resurrection. Discover the amazing world of snakes, crocodiles, lizards, and turtles, with over 700 photographs and

illustrations. This is a fully up-to-date and comprehensive photographic field guide to the snakes of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Lavishly illustrated with 387 color photographs, it includes coverage of all 122 snake species found in these regions. The guide's detailed introduction discusses snake anatomy, biology, habitats and taxonomy. It also explores the health of snakes in captivity and conservation measures, and provides a succinct explanation of the chemical composition, physical effects and cultural uses of snake venom. Species accounts are arranged taxonomically and provide identification features, a description of the species' habitat and behavior and information about whether a snake is venomous. Abundant distribution maps describe each species' geographic variation and usual habitats. Clear photos aid identification and are supplemented with illustrations highlighting key anatomical features. A table of all species, country by country, is included at the back of the book. The first dedicated field guide on snakes to appear in many years, *Snakes of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East* will be indispensable for anyone interested in learning more about these unique reptiles. Highlights all 122 snake species found in the region Features 387 excellent photos supplemented with diagrams Reflects most recent classification and scientific research Provides each species' identification details, habitat, behavior and much more Includes distribution maps for all species Featuring more than three hundred color photographs and nearly fifty distribution maps, *Snakes of the Southeast* is stuffed with both entertaining and detailed, in-depth information. Includes and explores size charts, key identifiers (scales, body shape, patterns, and color), descriptions of habitat, behavior and activity, food and feeding, reproduction, predators and defense, and conservation. Revised and updated with the latest scientific research and updated case studies, the business classic that offers a revealing look at psychopaths in the workplace—how to spot their destructive behavior and stop them from creating chaos in the modern corporate organization. Over the past decade, *Snakes in Suits* has become the definitive book on how to discover and defend yourself against psychopaths in the office. Now, Dr. Paul Babiak and Dr. Robert D. Hare return with a revised and updated edition of their essential guide. All of us at some point have—or will—come into contact with psychopathic individuals. The danger they present may not be readily apparent because of their ability to charm, deceive, and manipulate. Although not necessarily criminal, their self-serving nature frequently is destructive to the organizations that employ them. So how can we protect ourselves and our organizations in a business climate that offers the perfect conditions for psychopaths to thrive? In *Snakes in Suits*, Hare, an expert on the scientific study of psychopathy, and Babiak, an industrial and organizational psychologist and a leading authority on the corporate psychopath, examine the role of psychopaths in modern corporations and provide the tools employers can use to avoid and deal with them. Together, they have developed the B-Scan 360, a research tool designed specifically for business professionals. Dr. Babiak and Dr. Hare reveal the secret lives of psychopaths, explain the ways in which they manipulate and deceive, and help you to see through their games. The rapid pace of today's corporate environment provides the perfect breeding ground for these "snakes in suits" and this newly revised and updated classic gives you the insight, information, and power to protect yourself and your company before it's too late. A *Beginning Vivarium Systems* guide, *Snakes* is an entertaining and educational introduction to the world of snakes of all sizes, colors, and personalities. Beginning snake keepers of all ages will find intriguing information about common and unusual snakes in this colorful guide by herp expert Russ Case. The book offers readers who are looking to adopt a snake the right guidance for purchasing a healthy specimen and for creating a safe, comfortable home where the pet snake can thrive. Beginners will learn about the anatomy of snakes and their behavior in the wild and in captivity. The chapter "Snake Food" is a lesson in how to feed snakes so that owners meet all of the special needs of their pets. The chapter "Great Beginner Snakes" present the most common species for newcomers to snakes, including such favorites as the corn snake, California king snake, ball python, and the rosy boa, each illustrated with color photos and explained in clear everyday language. Additional examples of "Other Amazing Snakes" are included, such as the boa constrictor, Burmese python, reticulated python, king cobra, rattlesnake, which are fascinating to read about though not recommended for beginners. A chapter

on potential health problems gives a basic overview of how to care for and maintain captive snakes in the best of health. Sidebars throughout the text give the reader good advice on dos and don'ts to avoid common mistakes keepers make with these pet animals. Glossary included. This volume describes in vivid detail the human fascination and obsession with the snake and serpent. An up-to-date and comprehensive herpetological guide to Alabama Lizards and Snakes of Alabama is the most comprehensive taxonomy gathered since Robert H. Mount's seminal 1975 volume on the reptiles and amphibians of Alabama. This richly illustrated guide provides an up-to-date summary of the taxonomy and life history of lizards and snakes native to, or introduced to, the state. Alabama possesses one of the most species-rich biotas in north temperate areas and this richness is reflected in some groups of lizards, such as skinks, and especially in snakes. The authors examine all known species within the state and describe important regional variations in each species, including changes in species across the many habitats that comprise the state. Significant field studies, especially of Alabama's threatened and endangered species, have been performed and are used to inform discussion of each account. The life-history entry for each species is comprised of scientific and common names, full-color photographs, a morphological description, discussion of habits and life cycle, and a distribution map depicting the species range throughout the state, as well as notes on conservation and management practices. The illustrated taxonomic keys provided for families, genera, species, and subspecies are of particular value to herpetologists. This extensive guide will serve as a single resource for understanding the rich natural history of Alabama by shedding light on an important component of that biodiversity. Accessible to all, this volume is valuable to both the professional herpetologist and the general reader interested in snakes and lizards. Winner, 2020 National Outdoor Book Award, Nature and the Environment

Snakes inspire extreme reactions. Love or hate these limbless reptiles, almost everyone is fascinated by them. Although snakes are widespread and frequently encountered, they may be more misunderstood than any other group of animals. From giant rattlesnakes to mating dances, there are dozens of myths and misconceptions about snakes. In *Secrets of Snakes: The Science beyond the Myths*, wildlife biologist David Steen tackles the most frequently asked questions and clears up prevailing myths. In a conversational style with a bit of humor, Steen presents the relevant biology and natural history of snakes, making the latest scientific research accessible to a general audience. When addressing myths about snakes, he explains how researchers use the scientific method to explain which parts of the myth are biologically plausible and which are not. Steen also takes a close look at conventional wisdom and common advice about snakes. For example, people are told they can distinguish coralsnakes from non-venomous mimics by remembering the rhyme, "red on black, friend of Jack, red on yellow, kill a fellow," but this tip is only relevant to coralsnakes and two mimics living in the southeastern United States, and it does not always work with other species or in other countries. Enhanced by more than 100 stunning color photographs and three original drawings, *Secrets of Snakes: The Science beyond the Myths* encourages readers to learn about the snakes around them and introduces them to how scientists use the scientific method and critical thinking to learn about the natural world. Number Sixty-one: W. L. Moody Jr. Natural History Series

Answers commonly asked questions about snake senses and behavior, the truth behind serpent folklore, giant snakes, snakebite, and the relationship between humans and snakes. For author Philippe de Vosjoli, "art is the actualization of a personal vision or message," and de Vosjoli's passion is snakes, which he believes are among the most beautiful animals on earth. Incorporating snakes into a naturalistic vivarium, the way lizards and amphibians usually are, adds a new element to snake keeping, elevating the hobby to a true art form. In *The Art of Keeping Snakes*, de Vosjoli pursues this concept and provides advice for snake keepers who wish to create beautiful displays for their snakes, putting the animals' welfare and quality of life above all else and simultaneously enhancing their own enjoyment in observing their beautiful snakes in naturalistic environments. Beautifully photographed, inspiring, and informative, *The Art of Keeping Snakes* is divided into two parts, the first "A New Way to Keep Snakes," discusses design planning, enclosures and background possibilities, substrates, landscaping, plants, heating/lighting, quarantine and introducing the snakes to the vivarium. This part also includes

chapters on feeding, handling, health care, and general maintenance and husbandry. The second part, "Best Display Snakes," presents over thirty different snakes, including photographs, physical descriptions, and tips for selection, handling, vivarium design tips, feeding, and breeding. The snakes in this part are divided into chapters, categorized by pythons, boas, water and garter snakes, hognose snakes, rat snakes, kingsnakes and milksnakes, and others. Resources and index included. With species ranging from the legendary, fear-inspiring western diamond-backed rattlesnake to the tiny threadsnakes, Texas has a greater diversity of snakes than any other state in the country. This fully illustrated field guide to Texas snakes, written by two of the state's most respected herpetologists and updated by their student and later colleague, gives you the most current and complete information to identify and understand all 111 species and subspecies. Texas Snakes: A Field Guide has all the resources you need to identify snakes in the wild and in your own backyard: 113 full-color, close-up photos that show every snake, as well as 39 detailed line drawings 113 range maps Up-to-date species accounts that describe each snake's appearance, look-alikes, size, and habitats A checklist of all Texas snakes with a key to the species Reliable information on venomous snakes and prevention of or initial treatment for snakebite Concise discussion of conservation, classification, and identification approaches Drawn from the lead authors' monumental, definitive Texas Snakes: Identification, Distribution, and Natural History, this field guide is your must-have source for identifying any snakes you see in Texas. Snakes In Third Grade! encourages young learners to build reading comprehension skills with grade-appropriate vocabulary, extension activities, and an engaging story. Featuring reading activities and a Comprehension & Extension section, this 24-page title introduces transitioning readers to teacher-focused concepts that will help them gain important reading comprehension and learning skills. The vibrant illustrations and engaging leveled text in the Little Birdie Books' Leveled Readers work together to tell fun stories while supporting early readers. Featuring grade-appropriate vocabulary and activities, these books help children develop essential skills for reading proficiency. More than sixty species of snakes are found in the eastern United States, the region of highest biodiversity of all reptiles and amphibians in North America. In this brand new guide, stunning photographs, colorful geographic range maps, and comprehensive written accounts provide essential information about each species—including detailed identification characteristics, general ecology and behavior, and conservation status. Carefully researched and written by an expert herpetologist, the guide is directed toward a general audience interested in natural history. Additional information supports the already fact-filled snake species profiles. A chapter on urban and suburban snake ecology focuses on species most commonly found in some of the country's largest cities and residential settings. A chapter on snake conservation includes information on threats faced by native species in many regions of the eastern United States. Another chapter provides the latest updates on the status of invasive species of pythons and boa constrictors that have now become naturalized permanent residents in certain areas of the country. This is the most accessible and informative guide to snakes of the eastern United States available anywhere. Covers snakes in these states (plus Washington, DC): Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Features: More than 385 stunning color photographs Colorful geographic range maps Species accounts that cover identification, general ecology and behavior, and conservation status Extra information on snakes in urban and suburban areas Strong conservation message, with a focus on environmental threats to native species Coverage of invasive snakes The success in the standard model and to the continuing research for a better understanding of the quantum chromodynamics has resulted in a great interest in spin physics among high energy and nuclear physics. Advances in accelerator technology have also spurred renewed interest in accelerating and storing highly aligned spin particles in synchrotrons and storage rings. The development of polarized ion sources and polarized electron sources have seen remarkable progress. With these advances in ion sources, there is a growing interest in the acceleration and maintenance of this polarization. This

book is intended to be used as a graduate/senior undergraduate textbook in accelerator physics and sciences. The subject deals with acceleration and storage of polarized beams in high energy synchrotrons. The material covers the equation of motion for polarized beams in synchrotrons, spin depolarizing resonances, practical methods used in overcoming spin resonances, effects of spin rotators — called Siberian snakes — on the polarization vector, snake resonances, Sokolov-Ternov radiative polarization of electrons, and design principles of spin rotators. Experimental results of many polarized beam experiments are compared with theoretical analyses. Each chapter is also followed by exercises, which are intended to reinforce the concepts discussed, to derive useful formulae for applications, and to provide an introduction to some published literatures related to the polarized beam dynamics. A guide to snakes in Southern Africa. It isolates all of the region's most common harmless snakes, all the dangerous snakes and all those (non-dangerous) snakes that are likely to be confused with the dangerous species - a total of 48 snake species which people fear most or are most likely to encounter. The literature on snakes is manifold but overwhelmingly centered on the natural sciences. Little has been published about them in the fields of popular culture or the history of medicine. Focusing primarily on American culture and history from the 1800s, this study draws on a wide range of sources—including newspaper archives, medical journals, and archives from the Smithsonian Institute—to examine the complex relationship between snakes and humans. THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES will revisit the world of Panem sixty-four years before the events of The Hunger Games, starting on the morning of the reaping of the Tenth Hunger Games. On returning to the world of The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins said, "With this book, I wanted to explore the state of nature, who we are, and what we perceive is required for our survival. The reconstruction period ten years after the war, commonly referred to as the Dark Days—as the country of Panem struggles back to its feet—provides fertile ground for characters to grapple with these questions and thereby define their views of humanity." "The Bartletts have synthesized and distilled the very latest natural history information regarding our native ophidiofauna, added a liberal sprinkling of their vast field experience, and supplied some of the very best photography. Once again, they are poised to influence a new generation of herpetologists and herpetoculturists."-- Gregory C. Lepera, curator of herpetology, Jacksonville Zoological Gardens "This book belongs in the field pack, under the front seat of the car, or on a table near the door where it can be consulted quickly to identify the rapidly retreating snake on the road, canal bank, hiking trail, or backyard."-- Richard Franz, Florida Museum of Natural History Because Florida's human population has increased so dramatically over the past three decades, residents are more likely than ever to encounter a snake or legless lizard. This book is designed to dispel some of the apprehension from these encounters by providing a comprehensive, illustrated guide to the 86 species and subspecies of snakes and legless lizards living within the state. Each reptile is illustrated with a color photograph accompanied by a range map detailing where it can be found. The descriptions of each animal provide specific details on appearance, size, behavior, and venomous qualities. Additional text addresses captive care, how to find snakes, legal issues, reproduction modes, prey and prey procurement, and an explanation of classification. Because of introduced species, there are actually more snake species living in the state today than when Florida was truly wild. The 2-to-6-foot snakes are most commonly encountered, such as the green snake, yellow rat snake, and diamond-backed rattlesnake, but Florida's ophidiofauna range in size from the earthworm-sized Brahminy blind snake (also called the flowerpot snake, after one of its favorite habitats) to the Burmese python, which reaches a length of 15 feet or more. Both are introduced species. This is the only field guide for Florida snakes that includes native along with introduced and established species and commonly seen but not yet established species. Its handy format and comprehensive coverage provide identification for species anywhere in Florida as well as in adjacent areas of neighboring states. R.D. Bartlett is the author of many books, including *In Search of Reptiles and Amphibians* and *Popular Boas and Pythons*, and has published more than 500 articles about herpetology in such magazines as *Tropical Fish Hobbyist*, *Reptiles*, and *Reptile and Amphibian*. Patricia Bartlett is the coauthor with R.D. Bartlett of numerous books, including *A Field Guide to Florida Reptiles and Amphibians*. This

guide describes, in detail, each and every snake of Texas, from the benign Texas long-nosed snake, to the venomous Western Cottonmouth. Describes snakes and their care in the zoo, discussing their diet, artificial habitats, breeding, and general behavior. This book provides a series of compelling evidence that shows that humans have innate fear of snakes. Building on the previous studies on the Snake Detection Theory (SDT), the author presents a summary of psychological and neuropsychological experiments to explain the fear of snakes in humans and primates. Readers will come to understand why and how we are afraid of snakes from an evolutionary perspective. The first half of the book discusses the history of psychological behaviorism and neobehaviorism. The latter half of the book consists mainly of the experimental studies performed by the author with a focus on three key items: First, compared with other animals, snakes especially draw the attention of primates and humans. Second, the ability of primates and humans to recognize snakes with particular efficiency. Third, processing mechanisms within the brain for snake detection is discussed from a new viewpoint. The book offers a unique resource for all primatologists, psychologists, neuroscientists, anthropologists, herpetologists, and biologists who are interested in the evolution of visual and cognitive systems, mechanisms of fear, snakes or primates.

Ambition will fuel him. Competition will drive him. But power has its price. It is the morning of the reaping that will kick off the tenth annual Hunger Games. In the Capitol, eighteen-year-old Coriolanus Snow is preparing for his one shot at glory as a mentor in the Games. The once-mighty house of Snow has fallen on hard times, its fate hanging on the slender chance that Coriolanus will be able to outcharm, outwit, and outmaneuver his fellow students to mentor the winning tribute. The odds are against him. He's been given the humiliating assignment of mentoring the female tribute from District 12, the lowest of the low. Their fates are now completely intertwined - every choice Coriolanus makes could lead to favor or failure, triumph or ruin. Inside the arena, it will be a fight to the death. Outside the arena, Coriolanus starts to feel for his doomed tribute . . . and must weigh his need to follow the rules against his desire to survive no matter what it takes. Author David Perlowin states his purpose in writing this guide, "This book is intended to inform beginning and experienced hobbyists about selection, proper housing, feeding, general maintenance, and breeding of;" garter snakes and water snakes. Since these snakes are inexpensive and docile, they are commonly the first choice of young hobbyists (aka children). Perlowin's commonsense advice can help beginners decide whether or not these snakes are the right pets for them and their families. Garter and Water Snakes offers information on a number of selected species to assist keepers in the proper care of their chosen snakes. From the genus *Thamnophis*, the author covers Butler's garter snake, aquatic garter snake, black-necked garter snake, western terrestrial garter snake, checkered garter snake, Plains garter snake, common garter snake, western ribbon snake, and eastern ribbon snake. From the genus *Nerodia*, American water snakesalt marsh snake, green water snake, plainbelly water snake, southern water snake, diamondback water snake, northern water snake, brown water snake, and Oriental garter snake. This Advanced Vivarium Systems title includes information about selecting and purchasing a healthy water or garter snake, housing and maintenance needs, feeding, handling, breeding, and health care. A separate chapter on diseases and disorders provides a complete primer on health needs and veterinary care. Resources and index included. Over 40 species. Add your colors to the king cobra, black mamba, boa constrictor, puff adder, Indian python, milk snake, garter snake, and many more. Captions. Complete guide to the snake, treats three major topics: evolution and physical characteristics, snake venom and defense and snakes of the world. Discusses snakes in their natural habitats. Over 250 full-color illustrations. Note that there is a companion website for this book and it can be seen at: <http://secretsofthesnakecharmer.blogspot.com/> Humans and snakes have an intimate and ancient relationship that often revolves around either love or hate. Snakes can be seen as gods, spiritual messengers, symbols of fertility, and guardians of resources in virtually all cultures. But to those that fear them, snakes are seen as venomous creatures that cannot be trusted. In *Secrets of the Snake Charmer*, John Murphy, a research associate of the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, provides an in-depth, twenty-first century look at snakes utilizing the published research of other herpetologists as well as his own

personal experiences and speculations. Murphy covers a wide range of topics such as the adaptability of snakes, the ways in which evolution has tinkered with snakes during the last 160 million years, and the impact snakes have on the ecological communities they live in. While sharing ideas about the origin of snakes, rattlesnake rattles, and spitting in cobras, Murphy presents an innovative portrayal of snakes that proves they co-evolve with their prey, predators, and parasites in order to fulfill a significant and novel role in the web of life. This new edition of *Snakes in Question* has been completely updated to take into account the most recent research available, offering useful scientific information about snakes while dispelling many widely-circulated myths and common fears. Accompanied by 100 stunning color photographs and written in the popular question-and-answer format of Smithsonian's "In Question" series, the book tells how snakes breathe, hear, smell, and much more. It covers not only the life cycle of snakes but also explores such phenomena as the rattlesnake's rattle, the viper's hiss, and the snake charmer's secrets. It addresses common folktales about snakes (do snakes milk cows?) and describes giant snakes, both real and imaginary. The authors also give expert advice on such subjects as distinguishing venomous species from harmless look-alikes and keeping snakes as pets.

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