

I can identify the features of a non-chronological reports.

Snakes

Snakes are carnivorous (meat-eating) reptiles that are found all over the world. There are over 3,500 different species of snakes in the world and 375 of these species are venomous.

How big can snakes grow?

Most species of snakes hatch from eggs and are between 5" and 30" long when babies, depending on their species, but they can grow much bigger than this. The longest snake recorded in the world was a reticulated python that measured 32 feet long! The heaviest snake is the green anaconda that weighs up to 500lb and has a diameter of up to 12". As a snake grows, their skin stretches, eventually they become too big for their skin and they shed their old skin and have a new, bigger skin underneath.



Shedded snake skin

Where do snakes live?

Snakes live on every continent in the world, except Antarctica. They are found in swamps, deserts, forests, grasslands and even in water. Most snakes choose habitats which allow them to hide or be camouflaged such as piles of rocks and logs. There are four species of snakes which are native to the UK; the adder, grass snake, smooth snake and barred grass snake.

How do snakes kill their prey?

Some snakes are constrictors, others are venomous. Constrictors bite their prey and then squeeze it. Venomous snakes bite their prey and inject venom which may kill or paralyse their prey, allowing the snake to eat it. All snakes swallow their food whole, they have very flexible jaws which allow them to eat food that is bigger than their head!

Snakes are one of the world's deadliest creatures with a vast number of different species calling our planet home. They have many features that help them to survive, from camouflage to producing venom. This array of talents certainly makes them one of the most fascinating creatures in the world. Would you want to meet one or keep one as a pet?

Did you know?

Challenge can you fill in this box? Find interesting facts about snakes that could go here.