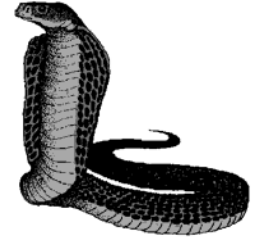


Okefenokee Joe

Venomous Snakes of the Southeast

Answer Key



True or False

1. **True** Cottonmouth snakes have mouths that are white.
2. **False** Pit vipers lay eggs like non-venomous snakes do.
3. **True** The Scarlet Kingsnake can grow up to four feet long.
4. **True** Pygmy rattlesnakes are the smallest rattlesnakes in the U. S.
5. **False** Coral snakes are not venomous snakes.
6. **True** The Hognose snake is commonly mistaken for a Pygmy rattlesnake.

Short Answers

1. A. What the three species of rattlesnakes found in Georgia?
The three rattlesnake species in Georgia are the timber (canebrake), pygmy, and eastern diamondback rattlesnakes.
B. Name the other three venomous snakes found in Georgia?
The other three venomous snake species in Georgia are the coral, copperhead, and cottonmouth snakes.
2. What is the largest venomous snake in the Southeast?
The largest venomous snake in the Southeast is the Eastern Diamondback rattlesnake. It can grow up to eight feet long.
3. Are rattlesnakes born with rattles? Explain your answer.
Rattlesnakes are NOT born with rattles. When they are born, they have a button at the end of their tail that grows every time the snake sheds its skin. When the snake sheds the buttons stay loosely attached, forming the rattle. The rattle is made of keratin, the same material our nails and hair are made of.
4. What animals or other snakes will eat rattlesnakes?
Kingsnakes, barn owls, hawks, alligators, possums, and skunks will eat rattlesnakes.
5. What distinguishes a Scarlet Kingsnake from a Coral snake?
Scarlet kingsnakes are smaller, have red blotches instead of bands, and have a red nose. Coral snakes have red, yellow, and black bands around its body. Coral snakes are larger than the Scarlet kingsnake and has a black nose. You can also remember this rhyme, "Red touches yellow kills a fellow, red touches black is a friend of Jack."
6. What venomous snake is most common in the Southeast?
The most common venomous snake in the Southeast is the copperhead.

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7. What type of habitat does a Cottonmouth live in? What is another name for them?
Cottonmouths live in swampy habitats (near the water). They are also called water moccasins.

Find the words that go in the blanks by using the puzzle.

F	A	N	G	S	P	O	I	C	O	R	A	L	I	T	S	V
F	R	T	G	W	Q	S	E	D	X	F	R	T	H	Z	Y	E
K	I	N	G	B	I	R	D	I	E	S	E	E	O	C	U	N
S	C	Y	H	E	M	O	T	O	X	I	C	C	U	C	O	O
U	F	K	F	G	Y	H	U	Q	W	E	B	F	R	A	R	M
N	N	E	U	R	O	T	O	X	I	C	S	G	G	T	S	S
S	C	A	U	D	A	L	T	O	M	M	H	T	L	S	I	G
H	T	Y	C	H	R	Y	E	L	L	O	W	R	A	A	S	O
I	E	G	G	S	I	O	Q	W	R	F	S	B	S	T	I	D
N	O	U	K	L	P	H	E	A	T	P	I	T	S	E	T	S

- The copperhead snake has an **HOURGLASS** pattern on its back that helps identify it.
- Most venomous snakes have **HEAT PITS** on their mouth and eyes.
- The type of snake that can eat rattlesnakes is called a **KING**snake.
- FANGS** are what venomous snakes use to inject their venom and can be of different lengths.
- CORAL** snakes are venomous snakes that do not have heat pits and can grow up to four feet long.
- The fluid that snake injects into its prey is called **VENOM**.
- Coral snakes do not give birth, instead they lay **EGGS**.
- One way to tell the difference between venomous and non-venomous snakes is to look to see if the **CAUDAL** scales are divided or whole.
- Coral snakes have **YELLOW** colored bands that separate the black and red bands.
- Rattlesnakes use **HEMOTOXIC** venom which attacks the blood and tissues of its prey.
- Coral snakes use **NEUROTOXIC** venom which attacks the nervous systems of its prey.

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