

# Make a Snake



Prairie Rattlesnake



Smooth Green Snake



Longnose Snake

Snakes are scaled reptiles. Their skeleton consists of a flexible backbone with many, many ribs. Design your own snake to hang up or hide out.

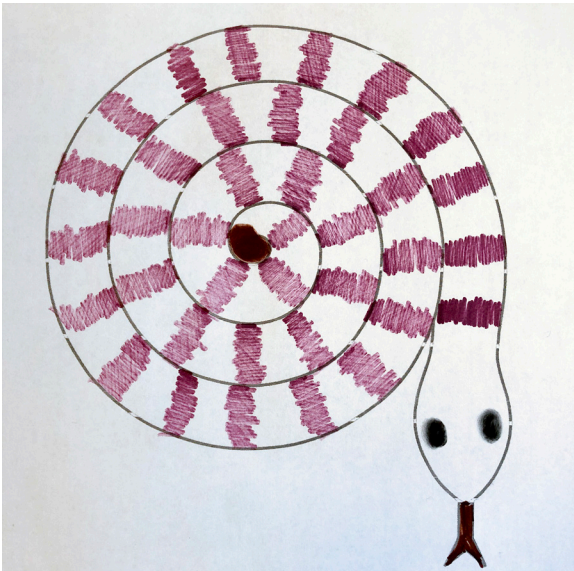
## Directions

1. Print the spiral snake template or draw your own spiral.
2. Visit our Snakes of Colorado online exhibit at: [www.colorado.edu/cumuseum/snakes-colorado](http://www.colorado.edu/cumuseum/snakes-colorado)
3. Look closely at the images. Each kind of snake has a different pattern and color. Look even closer to check out the scales.
4. Draw patterns on the spiral snake and color them in. Do you want your snake to hide with camouflage colors? Or stand out with bright warning colors? This will be the back of your snake.
5. Look at the online exhibit again. Do snake bellies look the same as their backs? In a few of the exhibit images you can see the underside of the snake (Prairie Ringneck; Western Hognose; Western Terrestrial Rattlesnake; Eastern Yellow-Bellied Racer).
6. Color in the other side of your paper if you'd like to show what your snake belly looks like.
7. Cut along the outline from the head to the inner tip.
8. If you'd like to have your snake dangle down from a branch (or lamp), tape a string to its head or tail. Your snake can coil around a branch or lamp or bedpost.

## Supplies

- ✓ Piece of paper
- ✓ Markers or crayons
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ String
- ✓ Tape
- ✓ Optional: printer





**Add color and patterns to snake template.**



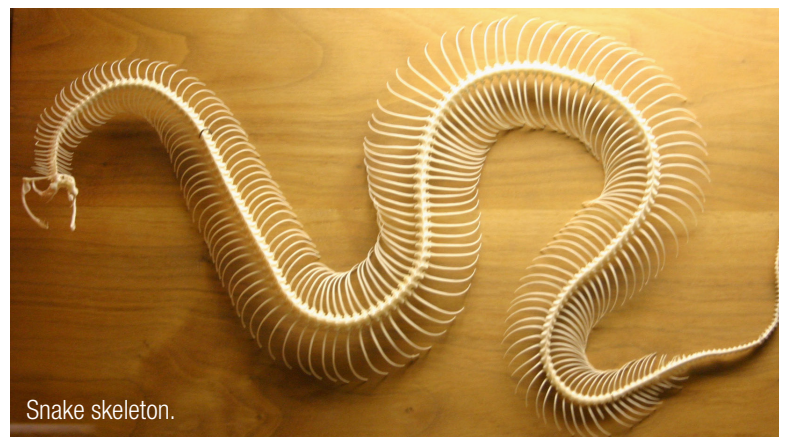
**Cut out snake along spiral line.**

## Dig deeper.

- Snakes are scaled reptiles. Along with lizards they form the order Squamata (which is a fun word to say). Herpetologists are the scientists that study reptiles and amphibians.
- Snakes are found on all continents except for Antarctica.
- Snakes are the newest reptiles to evolve—they have been on our planet for about 100 million years, so they lived alongside (or underneath) dinosaurs.

## Museum collection connections.

The CU Museum has more than 66,000 specimens in our herpetology collection. They are from 77 countries, with over 20,000 from Mexico. Snakes are stored in jars of alcohol to preserve them.



Snake skeleton.

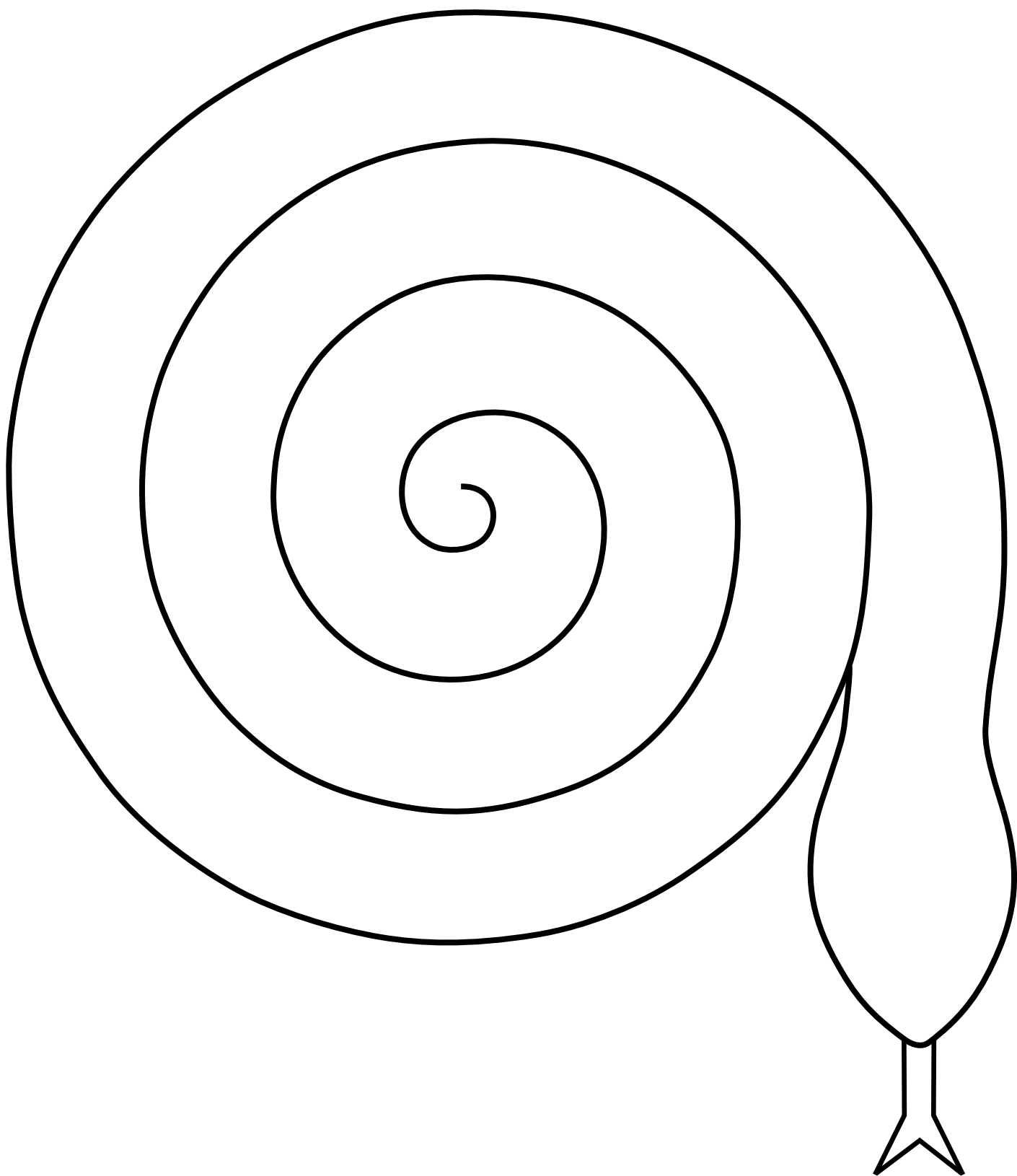


Preserved snakes in jars of alcohol.



Museum of Natural History  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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**Snake template**

# Snake Snippets

## True or False?

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**Write T for True or F for False,  
then check your answers below.**

1. Snakes eat all kinds of food. \_\_\_\_
  2. Snakes coil up to control their body temperature. \_\_\_\_
  3. Snakes digest their food quickly. \_\_\_\_
  4. Most snakes are venomous. \_\_\_\_
  5. Some snakes only need to eat two times a year. \_\_\_\_
  6. Snakes chew their food. \_\_\_\_
  7. A snake grows longer because each bone grows bigger. \_\_\_\_
  8. Snakes can regrow lost tails, like lizards. \_\_\_\_
  9. Snakes can move on the land, in the water, and in the air. \_\_\_\_
  10. Snakes sleep with their eyes open. \_\_\_\_
- 



1. **False.** All snakes are carnivores—they eat insects and other animals.
2. **True.** Snakes are cold-blooded; being long and thin allows them to control how much of their body surface is exposed.
3. **False.** It can take up to a month to digest a large meal.
4. **False.** Of the approximately 3000 species of snakes about 375 are venomous (about 12%).
5. **True.** Snakes can eat animals that are larger than they are!
6. **True.** Snakes swallow their food whole; they use their teeth to catch and hold their prey.
7. **True.** Snakes have between 100–400 vertebra and ribs. They start out life with the full number and each bone grows larger as the snake ages.
8. **False.** A snake's tail is different from the rest of its body because it does not have ribs attached, but it will not grow back if injured.
9. **True.** Some snakes can flatten their bodies to glide through the air for up to 100 meters. They always crash land!
10. **True.** Snakes do not have eyelids so they cannot close their eyes.

**Answers**