



The Access Center

Improving Outcomes for All Students K-8

K-W-L-H +

This strategy can be used to activate background knowledge about a topic (*Know*), to set learning goals (*Want to learn*), to summarize learning from text (*Learned*), and to promote continued investigation (*How to find out more*).

What We Know	What We Want to Learn	What We Learned & Still Need to Learn	How We Find What We Still Need to Learn

Categories of Information:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Summary of What We Learned & Still Need to Learn:

Sample K-W-L-H + for Snakes

What We Know	What We Want to Learn	What We Learned & Still Need to Learn	How We Find What We Still Need to Learn
Some snakes are venomous.	How does poison work?	Injected through fangs to paralyze their prey; Sometimes can spit venom at a distance; Some snakes squeeze their prey to death before eating it.	Are there different kinds of venom? Look on Web or in an encyclopedia.
Snakes have no real legs.	How do snakes move?	Most slide on their bellies.	
Snakes are carnivores.	Do snakes kill their prey before eating it?	Not always; Swallow prey whole by unhinging jaws; Use their tongues to sense odors.	
Snakes are reptiles, therefore are cold-blooded.	Do all snakes lay eggs?	No, some give birth to live babies.	
Snakes have scales and shed their skin.	How often do they shed their skin?	3–6 times each year; Their eyes are covered by clear scales; some snakes use color as camouflage or pretend to be poisonous.	
	Where do they live?	Every continent except Antarctica; Don't live on some islands like Hawaii, Ireland, Iceland, and New Zealand; Some snakes spend most of their lives in the water or in trees.	Do snakes live in our area? Look on the Web or in an almanac.

Categories of Information:

- Physical characteristics
- Locomotion
- Habitat
- Defenses
- Eating habits
- Reproduction

Summary of What We Learned & Still Need to Learn:

Snakes are cold-blooded reptiles with dry scales and no real legs—they usually slide on their bellies to move. They live all over the world on land, in water, and in trees, except where it is extremely cold (Antarctica) and some islands (Ireland, Iceland, and New Zealand). We don't know which snakes, if any, live in our area. Some snakes lay eggs while others give birth to live babies. They are carnivores and eat prey whole, often using their tongues to sense the odor of an animal. Some snakes use venom to paralyze their prey first before eating it, whereas others squeeze their prey to death before eating it. Poisonous snakes can either inject the venom through fangs or shoot the venom at a distance. We'd like to find out if there are different kinds of venom. Snakes can eat prey much larger than their heads because they can unhinge their upper and lower jaws. Snakes shed their scales 3–6 times per year, including the clear scales over their eyes. The scales might be very colorful if the snake is poisonous or is imitating a venomous snake; some snakes have colors that help camouflage them to blend in with their surroundings.