

# Pythons

Snakes are a type of reptile which can be found all over the world. They can be dangerous and some are poisonous. Snakes come in all sizes. Some are so small they can fit on a coin, whereas others are longer than a bus. Pythons are a type of snake. There are over 26 different types of python.

## Habitat

Pythons are very good at surviving in different places around the world. They are most often found in deserts, grasslands and rainforests. Pythons need to live in hot places because they don't have warm blood like mammals. This means they use the sun to warm them up. If they get too cold, their bodies don't work as well, making it difficult for them to survive. Because of this, they live in countries that are warm all year round. The rainforest is the perfect place for pythons as it is always warm but also because there are lots of places to hide and hunt. Pythons have very different coloured skin, which helps them to stay hidden and camouflaged. The colour and pattern of their skin matches the leaves, bark or forest floor so they blend in. This means that they are very difficult to spot.

## Diet

Pythons are carnivores, which means they only eat meat. The bigger the python is, the bigger their prey will be. Some pythons have been known to catch antelope which are like deer. Pythons will wait until an animal is moving past and then they will dart out quickly and grab them. They then wrap them up tight and swallow them whole!

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## Fun Facts

- Pythons can eat as little as five times a year, if their prey is big enough.
- Pythons are actually very good swimmers.



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# Pythons - Questions

1. What would a small snake be able to fit on to?

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2. Name one place you might find a python?

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3. What happens if a python gets too cold?

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4. Why are rainforests a good place for pythons to live?

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5. Why can pythons be difficult to spot?

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6. How do pythons catch their prey?

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7. If a python has a large meal, how many times a year do they need to eat?

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8. Name three other animals you may find in a rainforest.

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# Answers

1. What would a small snake be able to fit on to?  
**A small snake would be able to fit onto a coin.**
2. Name one place you might find a python?  
**Pythons can be found in deserts, grasslands or rainforests.**
3. What happens if a python gets too cold?  
**If a python gets too cold their bodies don't work as well, making it difficult to survive.**
4. Why are rainforests a good place for pythons to live?  
**Rainforests are a good place for pythons to live because there are lots of places for them to hide and they are warm.**
5. Why can pythons be difficult to spot?  
**Pythons have patterns on their skin which matches the leaves and bark so they are camouflaged.**
6. How do pythons catch their prey?  
**Pythons catch their prey by waiting for an animal to move past, darting out and grabbing it.**
7. If a python has a large meal, how many times a year do they need to eat?  
**Some pythons will only eat five times a year if they have had a very big meal.**
8. Name three other animals you may find in a rainforest.  
**Varied answers. May include monkeys, tigers, rhinos, leopards, parrots etc.**