



Amazing Animals Fact sheets

Boas and Pythons

Boas and Pythons are non-venomous snakes that constrict their prey (ie. wrap it in tight coils). Pythons kill their prey by squeezing (constricting) them in tight coils. Their diet mainly consists of birds and mammals. The Reticulated Python is one of the largest snakes in the world, and can reach lengths of over 8m. They are common throughout parts of South-east Asia.



Breeding

The female Reticulated Python may lay up to 90 eggs and incubates them by coiling around them and shivering to raise and maintain temperatures. The young are over 2 feet long at hatching and may grow up to a foot longer each year.

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Reticulated Python

Reticulated Pythons have amazing patterns on their bodies which are designed to help them blend into the leaf litter of the rainforests. These patterns are a mixture of light browns, creams, yellow dark brown and even black. Their heads are yellowish with a dark, thin line and their bellies are yellow or white. The Reticulated Python is one of the world's largest snakes reaching a huge 10 metres in length. Reticulated Pythons grow to be the longest snakes in the world.

Habitat

The Reticulated Python is commonly found in the jungles of South East Asia, the Philippines and parts of the Indonesian archipelago. Reticulated Pythons enjoy the tropical areas in rainforests, and they rely on water and are often found near ponds, creeks and river systems.

Diet

Reticulated Pythons are non-venomous. Pythons are constrictors, coiling about their prey and squeezing it until it suffocates. Like most other snakes they can swallow animals much larger than the diameter of their own heads because the bones of the skull and the lower jaw are loosely attached to each other by ligaments. This allows the bones to separate when the prey is being swallowed. Their skin also expands and large prey items form an obvious lump in the body until digested. A Reticulated Python will prey on large mammals, birds and reptiles.