

Appendix A

Question 1: How many snake species are there in the world?

300

3,000

30,000

Explanation: There is no exact figure, but 3000 is closest.

Question 2: How many snakes are venomous?

**About 1%
of all species**

**About 30%
of all species**

**All snakes are
more or less venomous**

Explanation: Even though many snakes have venom, few are dangerous for man. Only 1-2% can be considered dangerous for man.

Question 3: Snakes have evolved from and are relatives of the _____.

**Lizards
that lost their limbs**

**Eels
that lost their fins and gills**

**Earthworms
that grew eyes and jaws**

Explanation: The lizards evolved before the snakes. The omission of limbs is a clever adaptation for a silent, discreet method of transportation.

Question 4: How many vertebrae does a snake have?

**None
(snakes have no skeleton at all)**

About 180-500

**About 34
(like humans & many other vertebrates)**

Explanation: Snakes are vertebrates and have a skeleton. The high number of vertebrae is a result of the elongated form.

Question 5: For what use is the snakes forked tongue?

**Handy for
poisonous injections**

**Handy for
picking up prey**

**Handy for
picking up smells**

Explanation: An old superstition is that snakes can sting with the tongue. However, the tongue is soft and the snake flicks it in the air to pick up scents. Then the tips are brought into contact with a paired taste organ (Jacobson's organ) and the smell is analyzed.

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Question 6: Snakes have no visible ears. Can they hear airborne sounds?

NO:
probably most snakes
hear nothing

PARTLY:
they can only hear
other snakes hissing

YES:
snakes have the most sensitive
ears in the animal kingdom

Explanation: The question if snakes can hear or not is open to discussion. They have internal ears and are very sensitive to vibrations in the ground, but most of them do not react to airborne sounds.

Question 7: How long are the largest snakes in the world?

**About 3 meters
(10 feet)**

**About 5 meters
(17 feet)**

**Over 8 meters
(26 feet)**

Explanation: There are two species that can attain a length of over 8 meters: The Anaconda from South America and the Asian Reticulated Python.

Question 8: Why does the Cobra spread its hood?

The view hypnotizes its prey It tries to impress females It wants to scare off enemies.

Explanation: The Cobras, like all snakes, do not like to be attacked and when it feels threatened, it will display its hood as a warning: I can bite you! Rattlesnakes use their rattling for the same purpose.

Question 9: How do snakes produce new snakes?

All snakes lay eggs

**All snakes gives
birth to live young**

**Some lay eggs and gives
birth to live young**

Explanation: Some snakes lay eggs and in other species the female keeps the eggs in her body until they are ready for hatching. There is a nice word for this: ovoviviparous.

Question 10: On which of the following islands would you not expect to find a wild snake?

Ireland

Sri Lanka (Ceylon)

Tasmania

Explanation: Ireland is a snake free island. Tradition says this is because St. Patrick made it so, but science thinks they never made it to Ireland after the last glacial period.