



Let's slither into the world of garter snakes, one of the most common snakes in North America! These cool critters are not very large, usually between two to three feet long, and they come in a variety of colors like red, green, blue, and yellow. They are easily recognizable by the long stripes that run lengthwise down their bodies, which is actually how they got their name (like the stripes on a garter belt). While they might look scary to some, they are actually quite harmless and interesting creatures.



Continuing from their interesting look, do you know that garter snakes have a surprisingly diverse diet? They're not picky eaters at all and are known to eat almost anything they can catch including slugs, worms, frogs, and even small birds. Some garter snakes have also been known to swim and catch small fish for their meals. This variety in their diet makes them very adaptable to different environments.

Speaking of different environments, garter snakes can be found living in a wide range of habitats. They prefer to live near water bodies, but you can also find them in forests, grasslands, and sometimes even in your backyard. During their life cycle, garter snakes hibernate in the winter, and mate and give birth to live young in the summer. Unlike most snakes, garter snakes give birth to live young instead of laying eggs!



Not just their unique life cycle, garter snakes have a special relationship with us humans and other animals too. While they may seem scary, they can actually be helpful by eating pests that can harm our gardens and homes. They have some natural predators like hawks, raccoons, and foxes, and when threatened, they produce a foul-smelling scent to ward off predators. Aren't garter snakes fascinating? Despite their small size, they play a big role in our ecosystem!

**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) How long are most garter snakes?
  - A. They are usually four to five feet long.
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- 6) What do garter snakes look like?
  - A. They have spots all over their bodies.
  - B. They are long and have a solid color.
  - C. They are long and have stripes running down their bodies.
  - D. They are short and have no stripes.
  
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  - A. Foxes
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- 10) Why are garter snakes called 'garter' snakes?
- A. They wear garter belts
  - B. They live in garter belt factories
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**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).**

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**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 23) Garter snakes usually give birth to live young instead of laying eggs.
- 24) It is fascinating how garter snakes give birth to live young instead of laying eggs.
- 25) Garter snakes can be found in different environments; from grasslands to water bodies.
- 26) Seeing a garter snake slither through the grass is a scary sight.
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- 29) When threatened, garter snakes release a smelly scent to deter predators.
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**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 33) Garter snakes give birth in the summer.
- 34) Garter snakes avoid water at all costs.
- 35) Garter snakes can eat small birds.
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- 39) Garter snakes lay eggs.
- 40) Garter snakes can only be found in swampy areas.
- 41) Garter snakes produce a foul-smelling scent to ward off predators.
- 42) Garter snakes give birth to live young.

**Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.**

- 43) When they're scared, garter snakes might give off a smelly musk that'll make predators leave them alone.
  - A. they were
  - B. they are
  - C. they be
  - D. they is
- 44) Garter snakes won't harm you, so it's okay to admire them from a safe distance.
  - A. will not
  - B. cannot
  - C. would not
  - D. should not
- 45) Garter snakes don't have venom, so they're not dangerous to humans.
  - A. does not
  - B. cannot
  - C. did not
  - D. do not
- 46) Garter snakes can't change colors like a chameleon, but they have various patterns.
  - A. can not
  - B. can
  - C. do not
  - D. will not
- 47) They're helpful for controlling pests like insects and slugs.
  - A. They be
  - B. They is
  - C. They are
  - D. They were

**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 48) Garter snakes eat small animals like insects and worms.
- 49) Are garter snakes venomous?
- 50) Garter snakes are usually green or brown.
- 51) Garter snakes are not poisonous.
- 52) Can garter snakes swim?
- 53) Do garter snakes hibernate?



- |                                       |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>        | 26. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u>       | 51. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 2. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>        | 27. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>          | 52. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 3. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>        | 28. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u>       | 53. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 4. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>        | 29. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>          |   |
| 5. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>        | 30. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>          |   |
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| 7. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>        | 32. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u>       |   |
| 8. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>        | 33. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>          |   |
| 9. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>        | 34. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>         |   |
| 10. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>       | 35. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>          |   |
| 11. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 36. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>         |   |
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