



Imagine a long, sleek creature, gliding silently through the grass - it's not a movie monster, it's a black rat snake! These snakes are quite amazing to look at, with their shiny black scales and light-colored bellies. They can grow up to 8 feet long, which makes them the longest snake in North America. And don't worry, they're not dangerous; they are non-venomous, which means their bite won't hurt you.



Speaking of bites, let's dive into what black rat snakes like to eat. These reptiles are carnivores, which mean they love to eat meat, especially small rodents like mice and rats. They are very good for farms because they keep the rodent population down. But that's not all they eat, they also like birds and their eggs, frogs, and even other snakes.

Now that you know what they eat, let's explore where these slithering creatures live. Black rat snakes are found in the eastern and central United States, from New England to Florida and as far west as Texas. They like wooded areas, fields, and farmland, and are good climbers, so you might even find them up a tree. When it gets too cold, they hibernate in dens, often with other snakes.



Just like us, black rat snakes go through different stages in their life. In the spring, female snakes lay 10 to 20 eggs in a hidden nest, and after about two months, the baby snakes hatch. These baby snakes have to take care of themselves right away, but they grow quickly and can live up to 30 years in the wild. So, you see, black rat snakes are fascinating creatures, not to be feared, but to be respected and appreciated.

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

- 1) Why are black rat snakes good for farms?
  - A. Because they are symbolic of good luck
  - B. Because they scare away other pests
  - C. Because they help pollinate plants
  - D. Because they keep the rodent population down
  
- 2) How many eggs does a female black rat snake lay in a nest?
  - A. 1 to 5 eggs
  - B. 10 to 20 eggs
  - C. 100 to 120 eggs
  - D. 30 to 40 eggs
  
- 3) When do female black rat snakes lay their eggs?
  - A. In the spring
  - B. In the summer
  - C. In the fall
  - D. In the winter
  
- 4) How long can black rat snakes live in the wild?
  - A. Up to 30 years
  - B. Up to 20 years
  - C. Up to 40 years
  - D. Up to 10 years
  
- 5) Are black rat snakes venomous?
  - A. Yes, they are venomous
  - B. Only adult snakes are venomous
  - C. Only baby snakes are venomous
  - D. No, they are non-venomous
  
- 6) Where can black rat snakes be found?
  - A. Western United States
  - B. South America
  - C. Africa
  - D. Eastern and central United States
  
- 7) How long does it take for black rat snake eggs to hatch?
  - A. One year
  - B. About two months
  - C. Six months
  - D. One week
  
- 8) How long can a black rat snake grow?
  - A. Up to 10 feet
  - B. Up to 8 feet
  - C. Up to 15 feet
  - D. Up to 3 feet
  
- 9) What do black rat snakes do when it gets too cold?
  - A. They migrate to warmer regions
  - B. They stay active and seek warm places
  - C. They hibernate in dens
  - D. They burrow into the ground
  
- 10) What do black rat snakes like to eat?
  - A. Only other snakes
  - B. Small rodents like mice and rats
  - C. Only birds and their eggs
  - D. They are herbivores, they only eat plants





36) It's really cool that black rat snakes can grow up to 8 feet long.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

37) Black rat snakes live in the eastern and central United States.

38) Black rat snakes only live for 2 years in the wild.

39) Black rat snakes can be found in trees.

40) Black rat snakes are highly venomous snakes.

41) Black rat snakes are carnivores.

42) Black rat snakes only live in New England.

43) Black rat snakes only eat vegetables and fruits.

44) Black rat snakes are the shortest snake in North America.

45) Black rat snakes can grow up to 8 feet long.

46) Black rat snakes are non-venomous.

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

47) Black rat snakes are constrictors, meaning they squeeze their prey to death.

48) What can we do to help protect black rat snakes?

49) Black rat snakes are native to North America.

50) Black rat snakes are not venomous.

51) How do black rat snakes defend themselves?

52) Are black rat snakes dangerous?



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1.     **D**    

26.     **true**    

51.     **interrogative**    

2.     **B**    

27.     **fact**    

52.     **interrogative**    

3.     **A**    

28.     **opinion**    

4.     **A**    

29.     **fact**    

5.     **D**    

30.     **opinion**    

6.     **D**    

31.     **fact**    

7.     **B**    

32.     **opinion**    

8.     **B**    

33.     **fact**    

9.     **C**    

34.     **fact**    

10.     **B**    

35.     **opinion**    

11.     **B**    

36.     **opinion**    

12.     **false**    

37.     **true**    

13.     **false**    

38.     **false**    

14.     **true**    

39.     **true**    

15.     **true**    

40.     **false**    

16.     **false**    

41.     **true**    

17.     **false**    

42.     **false**    

18.     **true**    

43.     **false**    

19.     **false**    

44.     **false**    

20.     **false**    

45.     **true**    

21.     **false**    

46.     **true**    

22.     **false**    

47.     **declarative**    

23.     **true**    

48.     **interrogative**    

24.     **false**    

49.     **declarative**    

25.     **false**    

50.     **declarative**



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Why are black rat snakes good for farms? (paragraph 2)
  - A. Because they are symbolic of good luck
  - B. Because they scare away other pests
  - C.
  - D. Because they keep the rodent population down
- 2) How many eggs does a female black rat snake lay in a nest? (paragraph 4)
  - A. 1 to 5 eggs
  - B. 10 to 20 eggs
  - C.
  - D.
- 3) When do female black rat snakes lay their eggs? (paragraph 4)
  - A. In the spring
  - B. In the summer
  - C.
  - D.
- 4) How long can black rat snakes live in the wild? (paragraph 4)
  - A. Up to 30 years
  - B. Up to 20 years
  - C.
  - D.
- 5) Are black rat snakes venomous? (paragraph 1)
  - A. Yes, they are venomous
  - B.
  - C.
  - D. No, they are non-venomous
- 6) Where can black rat snakes be found? (paragraph 3)
  - A.
  - B. South America
  - C.
  - D. Eastern and central United States
- 7) How long does it take for black rat snake eggs to hatch? (paragraph 4)
  - A. One year
  - B. About two months
  - C.
  - D.
- 8) How long can a black rat snake grow? (paragraph 1)
  - A. Up to 10 feet
  - B. Up to 8 feet
  - C.
  - D.
- 9) What do black rat snakes do when it gets too cold? (paragraph 3)
  - A.
  - B. They stay active and seek warm places
  - C. They hibernate in dens
  - D.
- 10) What do black rat snakes like to eat? (paragraph 2)
  - A. Only other snakes
  - B. Small rodents like mice and rats
  - C.
  - D.
- 11) What color are black rat snakes? (paragraph 1)
  - A. Blue
  - B. Black
  - C.
  - D.



Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

12) "Height frightens me, you would never catch me climbing trees." (paragraph 3)