

All About Snakes

If you were to imagine yourself as a snake, what would you need to change? Use the clues and word bank at the bottom of the page to complete the crossword puzzle.

DOWN

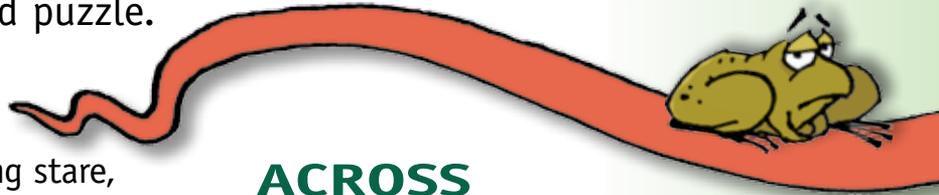
1. As a snake, you have an unblinking stare, because you don't have eyelids. Snakes have a fixed, transparent scale that covers and protects the eyes called an _____.
3. Snakes move by _____. The scutes on your belly are attached to your ribs through muscle.
4. A snake's body temperature will change with the temperature around it. Many people call this _____, but the correct term is ectothermic. "Ecto" means outside. "Thermic" means heat.
5. The tongue of a snake is used mostly for smelling. It picks up tiny particles from the air and places them into two small openings on the roof of the mouth. These openings lead to a chemical receptor called the _____ organ.
7. All snakes have teeth, but they don't use them to chew. As a snake, you swallow your prey _____.
10. A snake's tongue is _____, and it can dart in and out through a notch in the upper jaw, even when its mouth is closed. A snake's tongue is harmless. It cannot sting or wound prey.
11. Your skin no longer grows along with your body as it gets bigger. So, when you outgrow your skin, you must _____ the outer layer.
12. Are you slimy like some frogs or salamanders? No way! Like all reptiles, your skin is _____. This allows you to live in dry habitats.

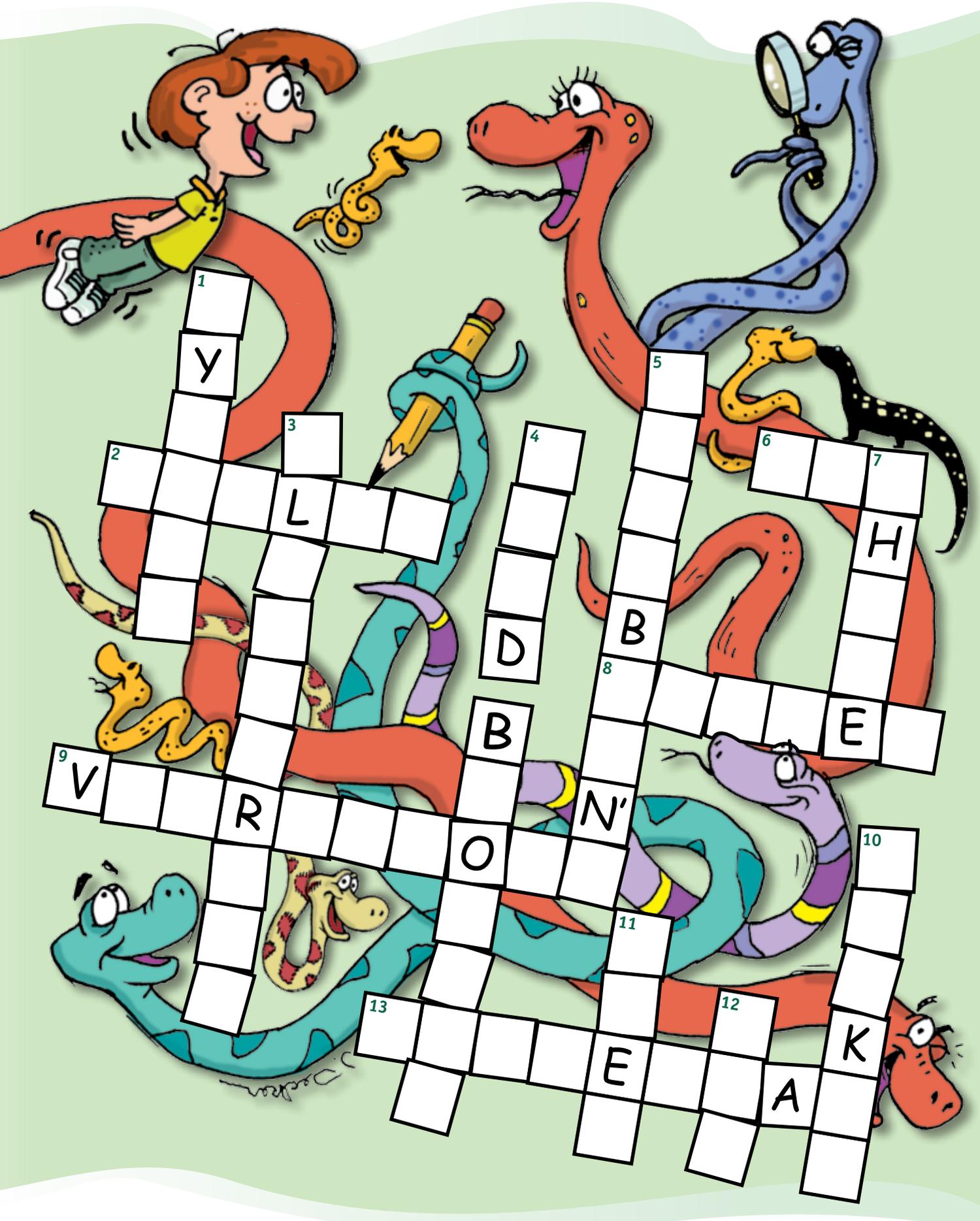
ACROSS

2. Instead of hair, your skin is covered with _____.
6. Your lower _____ is loosely connected to your skull with a ligament that acts like a rubber band. This allows your mouth to open very wide.
8. The scales on a snake's belly are called _____.
9. As a snake, you hear by feeling _____. Snakes have inner ear parts that are next to their jawbone. Sound travels through the ground or a tree that the snake is lying on and jiggles the snake's jawbone, which in turn shakes their inner ear.
13. Add more bones to your backbone. Snakes can have 100 to 600 _____. Most snakes have over 200 of these. Humans have just 33 of these. Each one, except those in the neck and tail, is attached to a pair of ribs.

WORD BANK

COLD BLOODED • DRY • EYECAP
FORKED • JACOBSON'S • JAW
SCALES • SCUTES • SHED
SLITHERING • VERTEBRAE
VIBRATIONS • WHOLE





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