

Name: _____

Cobras

By Guy Belleranti

The cobras of Africa and Asia are among the most famous, and most intimidating, snakes in the world.

Cobras have thin bodies and short, wide heads. When a cobra hunts or senses danger, it raises its head and part of its body. It then spreads the flaps of skin on its neck (called the hood) and hisses. From this position it can either defend itself or capture prey by striking and injecting venom.



Cobras can rise up in a standing position

as m

mea

long

food

flicks the tongue out to capture odor particles. then it pulls the tongue in, carrying the odor particles with it to a special sense organ called the Jacobson's organ.

Cobras hunt rodents such as rats, mice and squirrels and also lizards, frogs, fish, birds, and even other snakes. They will also feed on other animals' eggs.

A cobra will only attack a person if it feels threatened. Their venom is dangerous, and can be fatal if not treated. Usually, however, cobras try to hide from people.

Cobra venom is powerful, but there are some snake venoms even more potent. However, cobras can inject a very large amount of poison into its prey, even enough to kill an elephant!



PREVIEW

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

(the
e!

for
first it

Cobras do have predators. People are one. Another is a weasel-like carnivore called the mongoose. Birds of prey such as hawks and secretary birds are also predators.

King cobras are the only snakes that make an actual nest of leaves and twigs. Mothers lay 20 to 40 eggs once a year. The mother stays with the eggs until they hatch. The hatchlings are ready to be on their own from the beginning. They can even strike with their fangs on the day they hatch.

There are many kinds of cobras beside the king cobra



In fact
partic
does
out th



~ **PREVIEW** ~

Please log in or register to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

ned



About the Author

Guy Belleranti works as a docent at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences working with wild animals and teaching others.

Name: _____

Cobras

By Guy Belleranti



1. Which statement about cobras is true?
- a. Cobras mostly live in cold climates.
 - b. Cobras usually live in swamps.
 - c. Cobras usually hide from people.
 - d. Cobras mostly eat elephants.

2. List five animals mentioned in the article that are hunted by cobras.

3. List three animals mentioned in the article that are a cobra's predators.

4. How are cobras and birds alike?
- a. They are both herbivores.
 - b. They both use venom to protect themselves.
 - c. They are both types of reptiles.
 - d. They both protect their eggs.

5.



~ PREVIEW ~

Please log in or register to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

6.

Name: _____

Cobras

By Guy Belleranti



The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. _____

i h s s e

hint: makes a sound like the letter S

2. _____

g i n t d a m i t i i n

hint: frightening

3. _____

.

4. _____



~ PREVIEW ~

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

5. _____

o o n g m o s e

hint: weasel-like mammal

6. _____

s f g a n

hint: sharp, pointed teeth

7. _____

n e d n b s s l i

hint: state of not being able to see

ANSWER KEY

Cobras

By Guy Belleranti



1. Which statement about cobras is true? **c**
- a. Cobras mostly live in cold climates.
 - b. Cobras mostly live in warm climates.
 - c. Cobras mostly live in tropical climates.
 - d. Cobras mostly live in temperate climates.



~ **PREVIEW** ~

Please log in or register to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

ANSWER KEY

Cobras

By Guy Belleranti

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.



1. hisses

i h s s e

hint: makes a sound like the letter S

2

3

4

5

6

7

~ PREVIEW ~

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

hint: state of not being able to see