1. A snake’s mission in life is to **Eat, grow and survive to reproduce**

2. How many snakes are considered to be native in PA? **21 species**

3. Snakes are called **vertebrates** because they have a well-developed skeletal structure.
4. Snakes’ bodies are covered with scales which classify them as reptiles.

5. Poikilothermic means **Variable temperature (cold-blooded)**

6. How must snakes move to regulate their body temperature? **Into and out of various temperature zones**
7. What part of the snake samples scent molecules?

Forked tongue
8. When does a snake’s mating occur? **From spring until fall (depending on the species)**

9. Species of snakes that lay eggs are termed **oviparous**

10. Species of snakes that give birth to live young are termed **ovoviviparous**
11. How often do young snakes shed their skin?

4 or more times per year

12. How often do adult snakes shed their skin?

Only once or twice per year

13. Newborn rattlesnakes’ first rattle segment is called a button
14. Pennsylvania snakes have varied diets but they are all carnivores.

15. How do garter snakes feed?
Grasp prey & swallow it whole.

16. How do black rat snakes feed?
Constrict prey & suffocate it.

17. How do black racers feed?
Hold their prey down to the ground & suffocate it.
18. How do venomous snakes feed? 

Strike prey and inject venom through 2 large modified teeth (fangs).

19. What is venom? 

Modified saliva that contains digestive enzymes & toxic proteins.

20. How does venom cause death? 

Destroys cells, causes hemorrhaging & fluid imbalance leading to shock.

21. There are 18 nonvenomous and 3 venomous snake species in PA.
How Snakes Kill Their Prey
The back of the skull of ALL snakes is loosely hinged for swallowing prey.

The front of the skull of pit vipers is hinged to allow the fanges to rotate outward.

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22. All Pennsylvania native venomous snakes possess

**A pit on each side of the head**

Venomous snakes belong to the pit viper family and possess a heat-sensing pit on each side of the head between the eye and nostril.
22. All Pennsylvania native venomous snakes possess a vertically elliptical eye pupil (like a cat).

The eyes of Pennsylvania's venomous snakes have vertical, elliptical pupils resembling those of a cat. Nonvenomous snakes have round pupils like a human eye.
22. All Pennsylvania native venomous snakes possess a single row of scales on the underside of the tail.

Venomous with rattle

Venomous - scales in single row

Nonvenomous - scales in double row
23. Nonvenomous snake eyes are round and there is a double Row of scales on the underside of the tail.

24. Why does head shape often present a problem in identification?

Some nonvenomous species can also at times display a flattened head.
Camouflage and Mimicry
25. The three species of venomous snakes Pennsylvania are

Northern copperhead

Most common
25. The three species of venomous snakes Pennsylvania are

**Eastern massasauga**

Only in western PA
25. The three species of venomous snakes Pennsylvania are

- Timber rattlesnake
- largest

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26. When do most snake bites occur in Pennsylvania?

While a person is trying to catch or carelessly handle a snake

27. Rattlesnakes do not always rattle when a person or animal is near.
28. List the signs and symptoms of envenomation.

- Fang marks
- Pain
- Possibly a metallic or rubbery taste, with a tingling or numbness of the tongue
- Swelling
- Nausea, weakness, temp. change
- Discoloration
29. List the “Do’s” when someone is bitten by a snake.

- Calm & reassure the victim & keep immobile
- Call poison control
- Apply a light constricting band
- Move the victim to a medical facility
- Tetanus shot
30. List the “Don’ts” when someone is bitten by a snake.

• Don’t use ice, cold packs or sprays
• Don’t incise or suction
• Don’t use a tourniquet
• Don’t give alcohol or any drugs
• Don’t wait to see if symptoms develop
31. All snakes in Pennsylvania are protected by Fish & Boat Commission regulations.