

Fact and Opinion

Snakes can be amazing and breath-taking. Many consider them to be a creature to fear and avoid, whilst some believe them to be full of grace and beauty. As well as being a terrifying predator of the wild, snakes can also be a fun pet to care for at home.

Whatever you think of snakes, there are currently more than 3,000 different species and at least one type of snake can be found in every continent – except for Antarctica. This is because, as a reptile, snakes are cold-blooded: they do not produce their own body heat. Any snake living in Antarctica would freeze to death rapidly.

Snakes come in a variety of sizes. The thread snake is the smallest known snake species and it will only grow to about 3.9 inches long, whereas the reticulated python can grow to longer than 6 metres!

Snakes are carnivorous, meaning that they consume meat. Some people believe that all snakes kill their prey with venom. Only a few species do this, such as the cobra and viper. Most snakes will eat their prey whole. A snake's jaw has very stretchy ligaments, so that it can swallow prey 75% larger than itself.

Using information from the text, sort the sentences into the correct boxes.

A. Snakes can be amazing and breath-taking.	B. There are currently more than 3,000 different species of snake.
C. Snakes are full of grace and beauty.	D. Snakes can also be a fun pet to care for at home.
E. Snakes are carnivorous, meaning that they consume meat.	F. A snake's jaw has very stretchy ligaments, so that it can swallow prey 75% larger than itself.

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