

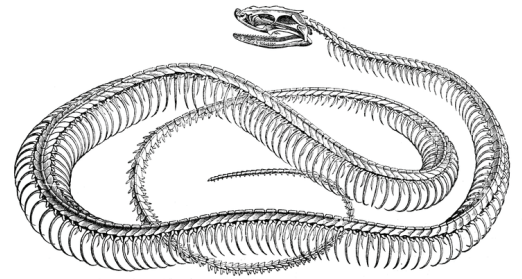
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Investigation: How do snakes move? Page 1

Snakes have no arms or legs, so how do they move around?
Humans have around 600 muscles attached to the bones of our skeletons to help us move our limbs and twist and turn our bodies.

Snakes have an enormous number of muscles- 10 000 - 15 000!
Snakes use their muscles and special overlapping scales on the underside of their body make contact with the ground to help them move. Interestingly, not all of the snake's belly touches the ground when it moves.



1) Serpentine:

example of species that is known for using this type of movement:

2) Concertina:

example of species that is known for using this type of movement:

3) Sidewinding:

example of species that is known for using this type of movement:

4) Rectilinear:

example of species that is known for using this type of movement:

Name:

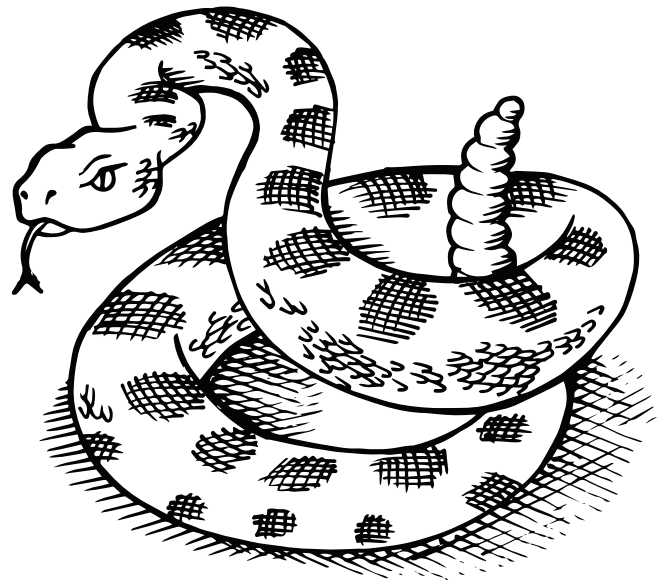
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Investigation: How do snakes move? Page 2


1) Use internet resources to explore the mechanics of snake movement.


2) Sort the explanations on this page according to the type of movement. Cut out the boxes and paste in the correct order on page 1.


3) Write an example of a snake species that is known for using each type of movement.



Key

 parts of the body in contact with the ground.

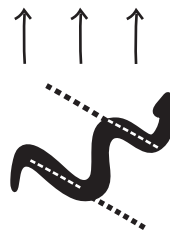
 tracks left on ground..

 direction of travel.



By stretching out the front of the body then pulling the rear part forward.

Only two parts of the body touch the ground. It lifts the front part of the body and throws its head forward, then the back part of the body follows. It makes sideways leaps, leaving a series of diagonal tracks. This is a very fast move, like running!



By moving their weight from side to side pushing down on opposite sides where the body curves, propelling themselves forward.



By moving their body up and down, having many points of contact with the ground, propels the body forward, like a caterpillar so it can move through tight spaces.

