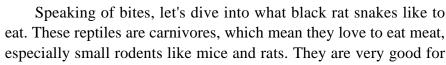


Imagine a long, sleek creature, gliding silently through the grass - it's not a movie monster, it's a black rat snake! These snakes are quite amazing to look at, with their shiny black scales and light-colored bellies. They can grow up to 8 feet long, which makes them the longest snake in North America. And don't worry, they're not dangerous; they are non-venomous, which means their bite won't hurt you.





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Just like us, black rat snakes go through different stages in their life. In the spring, female snakes lay 10 to 20 eggs in a hidden nest, and after about two months, the baby snakes hatch. These baby snakes have to take care of themselves right away, but they grow quickly and can live up to 30 years in the wild. So, you see, black rat snakes are fascinating creatures, not to be feared, but to be respected and appreciated.



## Solve each problem.

## Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Why are black rat snakes good for farms?
  - A. Because they help pollinate plants
  - C. Because they keep the rodent population down
- B. Because they scare away other pests
- D. Because they are symbolic of good luck
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  - A. 10 to 20 eggs

B. 100 to 120 eggs

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- 3) When do female black rat snakes lay their eggs?
  - A. In the summer

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C. In the spring

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- 4) How long can black rat snakes live in the wild?
  - A. Up to 40 years

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D. Up to 30 years

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- **6)** Where can black rat snakes be found?
  - A. Western United States

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# Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 12) "Height frightens me, you would never catch me climbing trees."
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- **18**) "In the wild, I can live up to 30 years!"
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- 20) "You might not believe it, but we are capable of jumping from tree to tree like squirrels! Climbing isn't our only talent."
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- 23) "I'm non-venomous, so my bite won't hurt you."
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- **26**) "Not all snakes like to live alone, I often share my den or hibernation spot with other snakes."

#### Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 27) Areas where black rat snakes are often found include woodlands, fields, and farmlands.
- **28)** Black rat snakes are the most interesting snakes because they are non-venomous.
- 29) The habitat of black rat snakes is mainly in the eastern and central parts of the United States.
- 30) It's surprising that black rat snakes will share a den with other snakes when hibernating.
- 31) Black rat snakes are not venomous.
- 32) Black rat snakes have the most interesting pattern of shiny black scales and a light-colored belly.
- 33) Black rat snakes can live up to 30 years in the wild.
- 34) The primary diet of black rat snakes consists of small rodents like mice and rats.
- 35) The fact that black rat snakes will eat other snakes is disgusting.
- **36)** It's really cool that black rat snakes can grow up to 8 feet long.

#### Determine if the statement is true or false.

37) Black rat snakes live in the eastern and central United States.



### Black Rat Snake

Name:

- **38)** Black rat snakes only live for 2 years in the wild.
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- **48**) What can we do to help protect black rat snakes?
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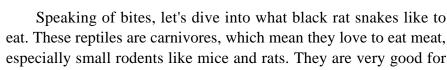
# Black Rat Snake

Name:

1.	 26.	 51.	
2.	 27.	 52.	
3.	 28.		
4.	 29.		
5.	 30.		
6.	 31.		
7.	 32.		
8.	 33.		
9.	 34.		
10.	 35.		
11.	 36.		
12.	 37.		
13.	38.		
14.	 39.		
15.	 40.		
16.	 41.		
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18.	 43.		
19.	 _ 44		
20.	45.		
21.			
22.	47.		
23.	 48.		
24.	 49.		
25.	50.		



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# Black Rat Snake

Name:

**Answer Key** 

		Black Rat Blake
C	26.	true
A	27.	fact
C	28.	opinion
D	29.	fact
D	30.	opinion
C	31.	fact
A	32.	opinion
C	33.	fact
C	34.	fact
C	35.	opinion
A	36.	opinion
false	37.	true
false	38.	false
true	39.	true
true	40.	false
false	41.	true
false	42.	false
true	43.	false
false	44.	false
false	45.	true
false	46.	true
false	47.	declarative
true	48.	interrogative
false	49.	declarative
false	50.	declarative
	A	A 27.   C 28.   D 29.   D 30.   C 31.   A 32.   C 34.   C 35.   A 36.   false 37.   false 39.   true 40.   false 41.   false 42.   true 43.   false 44.   false 45.   false 46.   false 47.   true 48.   false 49.

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interrogative 51. interrogative 52.

Reading

## Solve each problem.

1) Why are black rat snakes good for farms? (paragraph 2)

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C. Because they keep the rodent D.

population down

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C.

D.

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C. D.



Black Rat Snake Name:

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