

Name: _____ Date: _____

Snake Words

This issue's nonfiction article includes several words you could use when discussing the pythons that have invaded Florida. In this activity, you'll become familiar with these words.

Directions: Complete sections A and B below, then respond to the writing prompt section C.

A. What words come to mind when you think of snakes? Brainstorm some words and write them here:

B. We've highlighted nine words in "The Snake That's Eating Florida" and "Tracking Pythons" that you could use when discussing snakes or some other animals. Here they are with their definitions. Circle the words that are new to you and refer to these definitions as you're reading.

1. **species:** a group of animals or plants that are similar
2. **breeding:** producing young animals
3. **venomous:** able to inject poison through a bite or sting
4. **hatchlings:** young animals that recently emerged from their eggs
5. **tropical:** hot and humid, especially in areas close to Earth's equator
6. **infestation:** an invasion of a large number of troublesome insects or other animals
7. **ecological:** having to do with how living things interact with their environments
8. **adapted:** adjusted to; became used to
9. **implanted:** inserted into a person's or an animal's body

As you read, find one more challenging word in the article that you could use when discussing pythons. Write it in the space below and write a definition based on context, or look up the word in the dictionary.

10. **Word:** _____ **Definition:** _____

C. Imagine you are researching a book about a newly discovered kind of snake. On the back of this page, write a short paragraph for your notes describing your trek through the wilderness to study the snake in its natural habitat. Use at least three of the words above.