

VENTURA COUNTY DEPT. OF ANIMAL REGULATION

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO LOCAL SNAKES

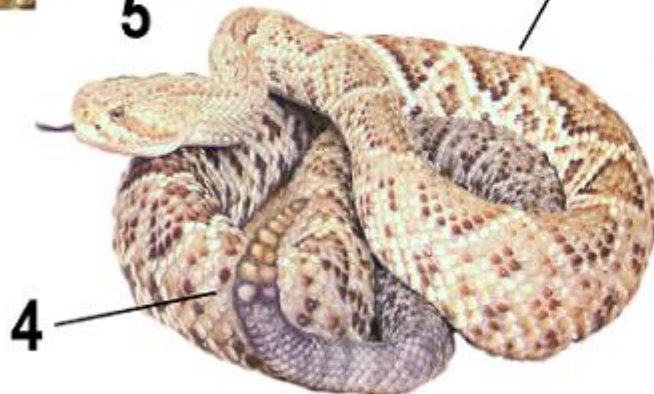
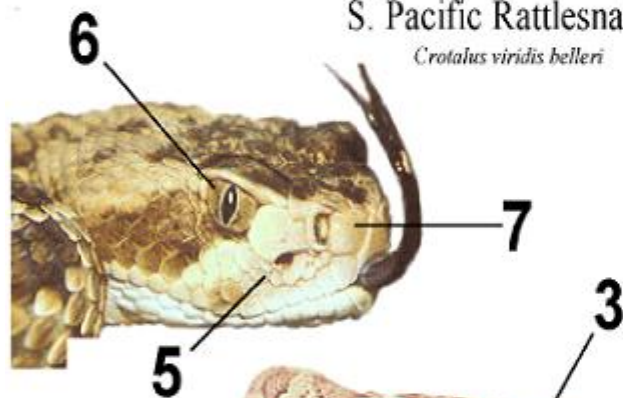
7 DIFFERENCES TO LOOK FOR:

VENOMOUS

S. PACIFIC RATTLESNAKE



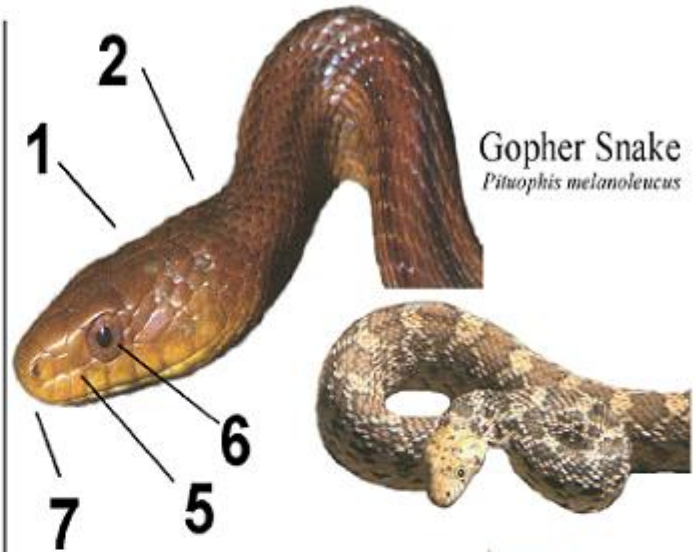
S. Pacific Rattlesnake
Crotalus viridis belleri



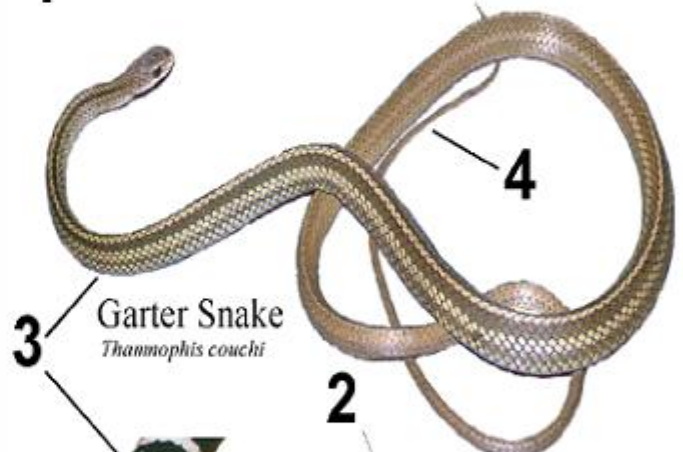
- 1- TRIANGULAR HEAD
- 2- HEAD IS LARGER THAN NECK
- 3- THICK, HEAVY BODY
- 4- BLUNT TAIL WITH RATTLE
- 5- PIT BETWEEN NOSE AND EYE
- 6- ELLIPTICAL (CAT'S EYE) PUPIL
- 7- TURNED-UP NOSE

NON-VENOMOUS

GOPHER, GARTER & KING SNAKES



Gopher Snake
Pituophis melanoleucus



Garter Snake
Thamnophis couchii



Cal. King Snake
Lampropeltis getulus californiae

- 1- NARROW HEAD
- 2- HEAD SAME SIZE AS NECK
- 3- SLENDER BODY
- 4- LONG, TAPERED, WHIP TAIL
- 5- NO LOREAL PIT
- 6- CIRCULAR PUPIL
- 7- SMOOTH, ROUNDED NOSE



SNAKE SIGHTINGS

1. USE THIS GUIDE TO HELP IDENTIFY LOCAL SNAKES. STAY 6'-10' AWAY. USE BINOCULARS TO SEE DETAILS.
2. IF UNSURE OF TYPE OF SNAKE, OR IF YOU THINK THAT IT IS VENOMOUS, IMMEDIATELY CALL VTA. CO. DEPT. OF ANIMAL REGULATION **(805) 388-4341** FOR IDENTIFICATION, REMOVAL AND RELOCATION. MONITOR SNAKE'S LOCATION UNTIL OFFICER ARRIVES.

FIRST AID FOR BITES

1. MOVE VICTIM AWAY FROM SNAKE TO PREVENT MORE BITES.
2. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE OR RESTRAIN SNAKE.
3. IF AVAILABLE, USE THE SAWYER SNAKE-BITE VENOM EXTRACTOR IMMEDIATELY, WHILE YOU ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORT OF THE VICTIM TO A MEDICAL FACILITY.
4. DON'T USE ICE OR ICE WATER! DON'T CUT OPEN THE WOUND! DON'T USE TOURNIQUETS!

HIKER PROTECTION

1. DON'T HIKE ALONE! A COMPANION CAN RENDER FIRST AID, PROVIDE TRANSPORT OR GO TO SUMMON HELP.
2. ALWAYS WATCH WHERE YOU WALK, WHERE YOU SIT AND WHERE YOU PUT YOUR HANDS AND FEET. CARRY A LONG STAFF TO BEAT THE PATH AHEAD OF YOU.
3. WEAR HIGH, THICK BOOTS AND HEAVY, BAGGY PANTS. CARRY A CELL PHONE OR 2-WAY RADIO IN REMOTE AREAS.

Snakes, even rattlesnakes, are a vital natural resource! They reduce rodent populations, and the serious erosion and health problems caused by them. Harmless Garter, King and Gopher snakes should not be killed, and the non-aggressive S. Pacific Rattlesnake only if necessary . On the average, only 12 people are killed by venomous snakebite in the United States annually.

Ventura County Department of Animal Regulation