



Have you ever seen a snake with a diamond pattern and a noisy rattle at the end of its tail? Well, that's a western diamondback rattlesnake for you, one of the most fascinating creatures in the animal kingdom! These snakes are easily recognizable by their distinctive pattern of dark diamond shapes lined with cream or white along their backs. And you wouldn't miss their famous noise-maker, the rattle, which they shake when they feel threatened.



Speaking of their rattles, did you know that western diamondback rattlesnakes use them in more ways than one? Not only do they use them to warn off potential threats, but they also use them to communicate with other rattlesnakes. When it comes to food, they are carnivores and their diet mainly consists of small mammals like rats, mice, and occasionally birds and lizards. They have a cool way of hunting too, they lie in wait and strike rapidly when their prey comes close enough.

Now, you might be wondering where these rattling hunters live. Western diamondback rattlesnakes are found in the southwestern United States and Mexico, and they prefer desert areas, grasslands, forests, and rocky hillsides. These rattlesnakes undergo what we call a 'life cycle', from baby snakes, growing into juveniles and eventually becoming adults. Each year, female rattlesnakes give birth to live young, which is quite different from many other snakes that lay eggs!



While they might seem a little scary, western diamondback rattlesnakes play a big role in our world. These slithering creatures help control pest populations, like rats and mice, which is a great help to humans! But, it's important to remember that they are wild animals, and we should always respect their space and consider their safety, just as we would want them to do for us. So, next time you spot one, remember their cool diamond pattern, rattling tail, and the important role they play in our ecosystem.



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What is the pattern on the back of the western diamondback rattlesnake?  
A. Solid brown color  
B. Spots of green and blue  
C. Dark diamonds  
D. Stripes of black and yellow
- 2) When do female western diamondback rattlesnakes give birth?  
A. Twice a year  
B. Every 5 years  
C. Each year  
D. Only once in their lifetime
- 3) How does the western diamondback rattlesnake hunt for its prey?  
A. Catches its prey in a pit it digs  
B. Lies in wait and strikes rapidly when the prey is close  
C. Lures its prey with a scent  
D. Chases its prey
- 4) What is unique about how western diamondback rattlesnakes reproduce?  
A. They give birth to live young  
B. They lay just 1 large egg with hundreds of snakes  
C. They lay up to 200 eggs at a time  
D. They lay eggs that are almost microscopic
- 5) What do western diamondback rattlesnakes use to communicate with other rattlesnakes?  
A. Flashing colors  
B. Rattles  
C. Hisses  
D. Gestures
- 6) What does the western diamondback rattlesnake do when it feels threatened?  
A. Shakes its rattle  
B. Run away  
C. Hisses loudly  
D. Play dead
- 7) Where can the western diamondback rattlesnake be found?  
A. Europe and Australia  
B. Southwestern United States and Mexico  
C. Antarctica and North Pole  
D. Africa and Asia
- 8) What kind of diet do western diamondback rattlesnakes follow?  
A. Omnivorous  
B. Carnivorous  
C. Insectivorous  
D. Herbivorous
- 9) What is the diet of a western diamondback rattlesnake mainly comprised of?  
A. Small mammals like rats and mice.  
B. Fruits and berries  
C. Insects and worms  
D. Fish and amphibians
- 10) What part of the western diamondback rattlesnake makes noise?  
A. Its fangs  
B. Its scales  
C. Its tail  
D. Its tongue

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

- 11) "I only live close to the beach."



- 12) "I don't eat fruits and vegetables, I prefer a diet of small mammals like rats or mice."
- 13) "You can spot me by the circular patterns on my back."
- 14) "I lay eggs like all the other snakes!"
- 15) "When I'm hungry, I don't chase my dinner, instead, I lie in wait and quickly strike when my prey is close."
- 16) "I'm picky with my food. I only eat organic fruits and vegetables."
- 17) "I may look scary, but I help control pests like rats and mice, which is good for humans."
- 18) "Despite my rattling, you should know I don't want to fight, I'm just trying to say I'm scared."
- 19) "I chase down my prey over long distances."
- 20) "All I eat are plants, the greener the better."
- 21) "Unlike some other snakes, I don't lay eggs. Instead, my mom gives birth to live babies."

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

- 22) Female western diamondback snakes give birth to live young each year.
- 23) It's really fascinating that western diamondback rattlesnakes use their rattles to communicate with other snakes.
- 24) Western diamondback rattlesnakes wait in ambush and strike at their prey.
- 25) It's amazing how quickly western diamondback rattlesnakes can strike and catch their prey.
- 26) Western diamondback rattlesnakes communicate with other rattlesnakes by using their rattles.
- 27) The way western diamondback rattlesnakes wait for their prey to get close enough before striking is really cool to watch.
- 28) Western diamondback rattlesnakes primarily live in regions with dry climates such as deserts and grasslands.
- 29) The diet of Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes consists mainly of small mammals like rats and mice.
- 30) The pattern of dark diamond shapes on the back of a western diamondback rattlesnake looks really cool.
- 31) The rattling sound a western diamondback rattlesnake makes when it shakes its tail is really scary.

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

- 32) Female western diamondback rattlesnakes give birth to live young.
- 33) Western diamondback rattlesnakes are only found in jungles.
- 34) Western diamondback rattlesnakes help control pest populations, like rats and mice.
- 35) Western diamondback rattlesnakes can be found in the northeastern United States.
- 36) Western diamondback rattlesnakes mainly eat small mammals.
- 37) Western diamondback rattlesnakes only eat small insects.
- 38) Western diamondback rattlesnakes prefer to hunt by chasing their prey.
- 39) Western diamondback rattlesnakes lay eggs and abandon them.
- 40) Western diamondback rattlesnakes mainly live in the southwestern United States and Mexico.



- 41) Western diamondback rattlesnakes shake their tail to communicate with other rattlesnakes.

**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 42) Western diamondback rattlesnakes eat small mammals such as mice and rats.  
43) Do western diamondback rattlesnakes lay eggs or give live birth?  
44) Western diamondback rattlesnakes are found in North and Central America.  
45) Western diamondback rattlesnakes are venomous snakes.  
46) What is the sound made by a western diamondback rattlesnake called?  
47) Where do western diamondback rattlesnakes live?



1. \_\_\_\_\_ 26. \_\_\_\_\_
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19. \_\_\_\_\_ 44. \_\_\_\_\_
20. \_\_\_\_\_ 45. \_\_\_\_\_
21. \_\_\_\_\_ 46. \_\_\_\_\_
22. \_\_\_\_\_ 47. \_\_\_\_\_
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25. \_\_\_\_\_



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- |     |                |     |                      |
|-----|----------------|-----|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b>C</b>       | 26. | <b>fact</b>          |
| 2.  | <b>C</b>       | 27. | <b>opinion</b>       |
| 3.  | <b>B</b>       | 28. | <b>fact</b>          |
| 4.  | <b>A</b>       | 29. | <b>fact</b>          |
| 5.  | <b>B</b>       | 30. | <b>opinion</b>       |
| 6.  | <b>A</b>       | 31. | <b>opinion</b>       |
| 7.  | <b>B</b>       | 32. | <b>true</b>          |
| 8.  | <b>B</b>       | 33. | <b>false</b>         |
| 9.  | <b>A</b>       | 34. | <b>true</b>          |
| 10. | <b>C</b>       | 35. | <b>false</b>         |
| 11. | <b>Not</b>     | 36. | <b>true</b>          |
| 12. | <b>Would</b>   | 37. | <b>false</b>         |
| 13. | <b>Not</b>     | 38. | <b>false</b>         |
| 14. | <b>Not</b>     | 39. | <b>false</b>         |
| 15. | <b>Would</b>   | 40. | <b>true</b>          |
| 16. | <b>Not</b>     | 41. | <b>true</b>          |
| 17. | <b>Would</b>   | 42. | <b>declarative</b>   |
| 18. | <b>Would</b>   | 43. | <b>interrogative</b> |
| 19. | <b>Not</b>     | 44. | <b>declarative</b>   |
| 20. | <b>Not</b>     | 45. | <b>declarative</b>   |
| 21. | <b>Would</b>   | 46. | <b>interrogative</b> |
| 22. | <b>fact</b>    | 47. | <b>interrogative</b> |
| 23. | <b>opinion</b> |     |                      |
| 24. | <b>fact</b>    |     |                      |
| 25. | <b>opinion</b> |     |                      |



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What is the pattern on the back of the western diamondback rattlesnake? (paragraph 1)  
A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. Spots of green and blue  
C. Dark diamonds D. \_\_\_\_\_
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A. Twice a year B. Every 5 years  
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- 3) How does the western diamondback rattlesnake hunt for its prey? (paragraph 2)  
A. Catches its prey in a pit it digs B. Lies in wait and strikes rapidly when the prey is close  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_
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C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_
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A. Its fangs B. Its scales  
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**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it is not something the animal would say (N).**



11) "I only live close to the beach." (paragraph 3)

12) "I don't eat fruits and vegetables, I prefer a diet of small mammals like rats or mice." (paragraph 2)