



Imagine meeting a snake with a mouth as white as cotton - that's the cottonmouth snake for you! Also known as water moccasins, these snakes sport a dark, thick body that can grow up to 4 feet long. Their heads are broad and triangular, and when they open their mouths, they display a white, cotton-like interior, hence the name cottonmouth. But don't let their appearance scare you, they're fascinating creatures!



Speaking of fascinating, let's dive into their interesting habitat and diet. Cottonmouth snakes are found in the southeastern United States, often near freshwater bodies like swamps, marshes, and streams. In terms of food, they're not picky eaters at all, munching on everything from fish and frogs, to small mammals and birds! Sometimes, they even eat other snakes, talk about a unique diet!

From their unique diet, let's slither to their life cycle and relationship with other animals. Cottonmouths have an interesting life cycle, starting as eggs inside their mother, they're then born live, which is a bit different from many other snakes that lay eggs. They prefer to keep to themselves and are usually not aggressive unless provoked. However, they play an important role in the ecosystem by controlling the population of their prey.



Now that we know about their life and role, how do they interact with us humans? Well, cottonmouths are known to be the only venomous water snake in North America, so it's best to admire them from a distance. While they're not usually aggressive, they will defend themselves if they feel threatened, often by displaying their namesake cotton-white mouth as a warning before striking. So, remember kids, if you see a cottonmouth, admire its beauty from afar, and let it continue its important role in nature!



**Solve each problem.**

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

- 1) What is the length of a cottonmouth snake?
  - A. Up to 10 feet long
  - B. Around 2 feet long
  - C. Up to 4 feet long
  - D. Less than a foot long
- 2) Are cottonmouth snakes aggressive?
  - A. Only when they are hungry
  - B. Yes, all the time
  - C. Not usually
  - D. Only during the winter season
- 3) Where can you find the cottonmouth snakes?
  - A. In the northwestern United States
  - B. In the northeastern United States
  - C. In the southeastern United States
  - D. In the southwestern United States
- 4) How do cottonmouth snakes play a role in the ecosystem?
  - A. They help pollinate flowers
  - B. They control the population of their prey
  - C. They clean the water in freshwater bodies
  - D. They provide shelter for other animals
- 5) What is unique about the life cycle of cottonmouth snakes?
  - A. They can breathe underwater
  - B. They hibernate during winter
  - C. They are born live, unlike most snakes that lay eggs
  - D. They never shed their skin
- 6) What does the inside of a cottonmouth snake's mouth look like?
  - A. As black as coal
  - B. As white as cotton
  - C. As green as grass
  - D. As red as a cherry
- 7) What type of bodies of water do cottonmouth snakes often live near?
  - A. Swamps, marshes, and streams
  - B. Desert oasis
  - C. Oceans and seas
  - D. Hot springs and geysers
- 8) What is the nickname for a cottonmouth snake?
  - A. Water moccasins
  - B. Muddy python
  - C. Cotton bear
  - D. Grassy cobra
- 9) How do cottonmouth snakes defend themselves when they feel threatened?
  - A. By shooting venom from their mouths
  - B. By displaying their cotton-white mouth as a warning before they strike
  - C. By playing dead
  - D. By suddenly slithering away at high speed
- 10) Where are cottonmouth snakes often found?
  - A. Near deserts
  - B. In the mountains
  - C. In the Arctic
  - D. Near freshwater bodies



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

- 11) "We only eat fish, that's it."
- 12) "I'll eat just about anything - from fish and frogs to small mammals and birds!"
- 13) "My kind prefer to keep to ourselves and usually won't bother you unless provoked."
- 14) "Water bodies like swamps and marshes are my home, these places are great for hunting my favorite foods."
- 15) "You will always find me munching on plants, leaves are my favorite delicacy."
- 16) "Despite our name, our mouths aren't actually cotton-like or white. They're just normal snake mouths."
- 17) "We won't harm you, we'll only show you our cotton-like mouths but never bite."
- 18) "We're just like any other snake, laying our eggs and then leaving them to hatch on their own."
- 19) "My mouth is as dark as the starry night sky."
- 20) "We cottonmouth snakes are a bit different from other snakes because we're born alive instead of hatching from eggs."
- 21) "We're not fond of water. In fact, we avoid it and instead, live in the dry sandy deserts."
- 22) "I'm called a cottonmouth snake because when I open my mouth, it looks like there's cotton in there!"

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

- 23) Cottonmouth snakes are the only venomous water snake in North America.
- 24) Cottonmouths have a more interesting diet than other snakes.
- 25) Cottonmouth snakes can grow up to 4 feet long.
- 26) Cottonmouths are really scary because they are the only venomous water snake in North America.
- 27) Cottonmouth snakes are commonly found in the southeastern United States.
- 28) The fact Cottonmouth snake will eat other snakes is quite disgusting.
- 29) Cottonmouth snakes eat fish, frogs, small mammals, birds, and sometimes other snakes.
- 30) Cottonmouth snakes generally make their homes near freshwater bodies, such as swamps and marshes.
- 31) It is fascinating to see cottonmouth snakes coming out of their mother instead of hatching from eggs.
- 32) It is really scary to see the white inside of a cottonmouth snake's mouth.

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

- 33) Cottonmouth snakes have a white, cotton-like interior in their mouth.
- 34) When they feel threatened, cottonmouths inflate their bodies to scare away predators.
- 35) Cottonmouth snakes can grow up to 4 feet long.
- 36) Cottonmouth snakes are only found in the desert.
- 37) Cottonmouths are found in the southeastern United States.



- 38) Cottonmouth snakes are only found in South Carolina.
- 39) Cottonmouth snakes are herbivores.
- 40) Cottonmouth snakes are not venomous.
- 41) Cottonmouth snakes are the only venomous water snake in North America.
- 42) Cottonmouths are also known as water moccasins.

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

- 43) Cottonmouth snakes are semi-aquatic and are often found near bodies of water.
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|---|---|
| 1. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 26. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 2. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 27. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 3. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 28. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 4. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>        | 29. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 5. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 30. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 6. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>        | 31. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 7. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>        | 32. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 8. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>        | 33. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 9. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>        | 34. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 10. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>       | 35. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 11. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 36. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 12. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 37. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 13. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 38. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 14. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 39. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 15. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 40. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 16. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 41. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 17. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 42. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 18. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 43. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 19. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 44. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
| 20. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 45. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 21. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 46. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 22. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 47. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
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A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. Around 2 feet long  
C. Up to 4 feet long D. \_\_\_\_\_
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A. Only when they are hungry B. Yes, all the time  
C. Not usually D. \_\_\_\_\_
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A. In the northwestern United States B. In the northeastern United States  
C. In the southeastern United States D. \_\_\_\_\_
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A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. They control the population of their prey  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_
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- 6) What does the inside of a cottonmouth snake's mouth look like? (paragraph 1)  
A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. As white as cotton  
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- 7) What type of bodies of water do cottonmouth snakes often live near? (paragraph 2)  
A. Swamps, marshes, and streams B. \_\_\_\_\_  
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