



Visit The Wildside!

The World's Largest Snakes!

What is the world's largest snake? If you're asking about weight, then it's the Anaconda from South America! They can grow as big around as a grown man. If you're asking about length, then it's the Python Reticulatus from Asia! The world record for length is 33 feet!

Python Reticulatus

- Adults can grow more than 32 feet and are slim for their length.
- They are found in Southeast Asia.
- They DO have 100 teeth!
- It uses heat sensing organs in its upper and lower jaws to detect warm-blooded prey.
- They are meat eaters or carnivores.
- They eat monkeys, pigs, deer, small apes, birds and other animals.
- They are excellent swimmers.
- Reticulatus is Latin meaning net-like - referring to the python's complex color pattern. It protects them from predators and helps them catch their prey.
- They live in rain forests, woodlands and grasslands by streams and



lakes.

- They are hunted by people for their meat and skins.

The Anaconda or Eunectes

- The anaconda live in the swampy areas of tropical South America.
- They spend a lot of time in shallow water hidden from their prey.
- The anaconda are greenish-brown with black oval spots on their back and white markings on their sides. Their skin glistens, but is dry to the touch.
- Their nostrils are on the top of the snout so they can easily breathe in the water.
- Anacondas are meat-eaters and hunt mostly at night, so they are nocturnal.
- The name Eunectes is from Greek and means "good swimmer."
- They eat pigs, deer, caiman, fish, rodents and other animals.

Both Snakes:

- Are cold-blooded and have the same temperature as their environment.
- They are not venomous and they kill their prey by biting and then squeezing them or constricting them until they can't breathe. They swallow their prey whole - head first. Their top and bottom jaws can unhinge so they can swallow larger prey. They don't chew their food - their stomach acids digest it which could take days or weeks.
- They smell with their tongue. They have no fangs.

