

Beauty (Pine) Snake



What do we look like?

Beauty Snakes, also known as Pine snakes, will grow between 4-6 feet long. The males average 4-4.5 feet and the females average 5-6 feet. We have lower jaws that are smaller than our upper jaws. This helps with our burrowing. Natural colors for us are shades of brown, black, light gray, yellow-brown and white with square patterns of reddish-orange, tan, yellow or black. Some species of us are completely black. One way to tell males apart from females is to look at our tails. Males' tails will be longer than females' and it won't taper as quickly.



Where do we live?

We are found in North America specifically in the western and southern parts of the United States. You can also find us in the southern part of British Columbia to Baja California and from Southeastern California to Western New Mexico. We prefer dry grassland and forest areas with plenty of sun. We actually burrow quite a bit in the wild. You can find us active above ground from spring to early fall. In the winter, however, we like to hibernate like most other reptiles.



What do we eat?

We are a type of snake called a constrictor, which means we wrap ourselves around our prey and crush them with our powerful muscles. In the wild our diets consist of mice, small rats and birds, gophers, chipmunks, squirrels, small rabbits and even eggs on occasion. We will eat once or twice a week depending on how big we are and how big our food is. If I am a smaller snake eating a bigger meal, I won't have to eat as often because it will fill me up more.



Cool Facts about us...

- We really like to climb trees even though we have no arms or legs.
- We can lay 10-20 eggs in one clutch. A clutch is another term for how many eggs a snake can lay at one time.
- Like other snakes, we don't have any eyelids. So we never have to blink.
- When we stick our tongues out, we actually taste the air. We have an extremely good sense of taste and smell.
- I can completely shed my skin up to four times each year.
- I eat by unhinging my jawbones and eating my prey whole. I don't have to chew because the acids in my stomach are very powerful.

