Let's slither into the world of garter snakes, one of the most common snakes in North America! These cool critters are not very large, usually between two to three feet long, and they come in a variety of colors like red, green, blue, and yellow. They are easily recognizable by the long stripes that run lengthwise down their bodies, which is actually how they got their name (like the stripes on a garter belt). While they might look scary to some, they are actually quite harmless and interesting creatures.



Continuing from their interesting look, do you know that garter snakes have a surprisingly diverse diet? They're not picky eaters at all and are known to eat almost anything they can catch including slugs, worms, frogs, and even small birds. Some garter snakes have also been known to swim and catch small fish for their meals. This variety in their diet makes them very adaptable to different environments.

Speaking of different environments, garter snakes can be found living in a wide range of habitats. They prefer to live near water bodies, but you can also find them in forests, grasslands, and sometimes even in your backyard. During their life cycle, garter snakes hibernate in the winter, and mate and give birth to live young in the summer. Unlike most snakes, garter snakes give birth to live young instead of laying eggs!



Not just their unique life cycle, garter snakes have a special relationship with us humans and other animals too. While they may seem scary, they can actually be helpful by eating pests that can harm our gardens and homes. They have some natural predators like hawks, raccoons, and foxes, and when threatened, they produce a foul-smelling scent to ward off predators. Aren't garter snakes fascinating? Despite their small size, they play a big role in our ecosystem!

Garter S	Snake
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		man	e i (unie)
Solv	e each problem.		
Use	the article to answer the question.		
	How long are most garter snakes?		
	A. They are usually four to five feet long.	В.	They are usually between two to three feet long.
	C. They are usually less than one foot long.	D.	They are usually more than six feet long.
2)	What do garter snakes do when they are thre	aten	ed?
	A. They rattle their tail to scare off predators	B.	They play dead
	C. They produce a foul-smelling scent to ward off predators	D.	They make a loud screeching noise
3)	What is a unique trait of the garter snake's life	fe cy	cle?
-	A. Garter snakes adopt other snakes' babies.	-	Garter snakes give birth to live young instead of laying eggs.
	C. Garter snakes lay eggs in sand.	D.	Garter snakes only lay a single egg.
4)	When do garter snakes hibernate?		
-)	A. In winter	B.	They never hibernate
	C. In summer		In spring
5)	What interesting thing do some garter snakes	s do '	for their meals?
5)	A. Climb trees and eat bird eggs		Burrow in the ground and eat bugs
	C. Chase insects and birds in the air		Swim and catch fish
6)	What do garter snakes look like?		
0)	A. They are long and have stripes running down their bodies.	B.	They are long and have a solid color.
	C. They are short and have no stripes.	D.	They have spots all over their bodies.
7)	When do garter snakes usually give birth?		
.,	A. In the winter	B.	In the summer
	C. In the fall	D.	In the spring
8)	Which animal is not a listed predator of garte	er sn	akes?
0)	A. Raccoons		Sheep
	C. Foxes		Hawks
0)	Where do garter snakes live mostly?		
)	A. Under the ground	B	In caves
	C. On trees		Near water bodies
10)			
10)	Why are garter snakes called 'garter' snakes? A. They wear garter belts		They live in garter belt factories
	C. They use garter belts to catch their		Because of the long stripes that run
	prey	D.	lengthwise on their bodies



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

- 11) "In the winter months, you can find us garter snakes sunbathing."
- 12) "Did you know that I give birth to live young instead of laying eggs like most snakes?"
- 13) "Even though I might scare you, I actually help by eating pests and other small creatures."
- 14) "When I am in danger, I release a yucky smell to protect myself from predators."
- **15**) "I'm a tiny snake, just an inch long."
- 16) "As a garter snake, I strictly stick to eating red berries in the wild."
- 17) "Unlike other snakes, we garter snakes lay thousands of eggs."
- 18) "You cannot find a single garter snake like me in North America. We live only in the African jungles."
- **19)** "I am quite a giant among my kind, measuring up to six feet long!"
- **20**) "I make my home around lakes and forests."
- 21) "We garter snakes often avoid water bodies and prefer arid desert areas."
- 22) "I eat all kinds of things, from slugs and worms to even small birds."

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

- **23)** Garter snakes usually give birth to live young instead of laying eggs.
- 24) It is fascinating how garter snakes give birth to live young instead of laying eggs.
- 25) Garter snakes can be found in different environments; from grasslands to water bodies.
- **26)** Seeing a garter snake slither through the grass is a scary sight.
- 27) Garter snakes are named after the stripes that run lengthwise on their bodies.
- **28)** Garter snakes are the best because they eat pests that harm our gardens and homes.
- **29)** When threatened, garter snakes release a smelly scent to deter predators.
- **30**) Garter snakes eat a variety of food including slugs, worms, frogs, and small birds.
- **31**) Garter snakes are the most interesting snakes because of their multiple colors.
- **32)** Garter snakes make the best pets, especially because they are not venomous.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- **33**) Garter snakes give birth in the summer.
- **34)** Garter snakes avoid water at all costs.
- **35**) Garter snakes can eat small birds.
- **36)** Garter snakes only eat small plants.
- **37)** Garter snakes usually live near water bodies.
- **38)** Garter snakes are not found in North America.
- **39**) Garter snakes lay eggs.
- **40)** Garter snakes can only be found in swampy areas.
- **41**) Garter snakes produce a foul-smelling scent to ward off predators.
- **42**) Garter snakes give birth to live young.

	Garter S	nak	e	Name:					
Det	Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.								
43)	When <u>they're</u> scared, garter snakes might give leave them alone.	e of	f a smelly musk that'll make	predators					
	A. they were	B.	they are						
	C. they be	D.	they is						
44)	Garter snakes won't harm you, so it's okay to	adr	nire them from a safe distan	ce.					
	A. will not	B.	cannot						
	C. would not	D.	should not						
45)	Garter snakes <u>don't</u> have venom, so they're n	ot d	angerous to humans.						
	A. does not	B.	cannot						
	C. did not	D.	do not						
46)	Garter snakes can't change colors like a chan	nele	on, but they have various pa	tterns.					
	A. can not	B.	can						
	C. do not	D.	will not						
47)	They're helpful for controlling pests like inse	ects	and slugs.						
	A. They be	B.	They is						
	C. They are	D.	They were						

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

- **48)** Garter snakes eat small animals like insects and worms.
- **49**) Are garter snakes venomous?
- **50)** Garter snakes are usually green or brown.
- **51**) Garter snakes are not poisonous.
- 52) Can garter snakes swim?
- **53)** Do garter snakes hibernate?

		G	arter Snake		Name:
<u></u>					
1.		26.	51.		-
2.		27.	52.		-
3.		28.	53.		-
4.		29.			
5.		30.			
6.		31.			
7.		32.			
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.		36.			
12.					
13.					
14.		39.			
15.		40.			
16.		41.			
17.		42.			
18.		43.			
19.		44.			
20.		45.			
21.		46.			
22.		47.			
23.		48.			
24.		49.			
25.		50			
	Reading	ww.CommonCore	Sheets.com Pag	ge 5 of 5	

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	Garter	Snake	Name:	Answer Key						
Solv	Solve each problem.									
Use	Use the article to answer the question.									
1)	How long are most garter snakes?									
	A. They are usually four to five feet long.	B. They are usually betwee feet long.	en two to three	9						
	C. They are usually less than one foot long.	D. They are usually more t long.	han six feet							
2)	What do garter snakes do when they are the	reatened?								
	A. They rattle their tail to scare off predators	B. They play dead								
	C. They produce a foul-smelling scent to ward off predators	D. They make a loud scree	ching noise							
3)	What is a unique trait of the garter snake's	life cycle?								
	A. Garter snakes adopt other snakes' babies.	B. Garter snakes give birth instead of laying eggs.	to live young	r >						
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4)	When do garter snakes hibernate?									
ŕ	A. In winter	B. They never hibernate								
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	A. Climb trees and eat bird eggs	B. Burrow in the ground an	nd eat bugs							
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8)	Which animal is not a listed predator of gam	rter snakes?								
	A. Raccoons	B. Sheep								
	C. Foxes	D. Hawks								

- 9) Where do garter snakes live mostly?
 - A. Under the ground
 - C. On trees
- **10)** Why are garter snakes called 'garter' snakes?
 - A. They wear garter belts
 - C. They use garter belts to catch their prey
- B. They live in garter belt factories
- D. Because of the long stripes that run lengthwise on their bodies

B. In caves

D. Near water bodies



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

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	A. can not	B.	can				
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47)	They're helpful for controlling pests like inse	cts a	and slugs.				
	A. They be	B.	They is				
	C They are	р	Thou ware				

C. They are D. They were

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			Garter Snake			Name:	Answer	Key
1.	В	26.	opinion	51.	declarative			
2.	C	27.	fact	52.	interrogative			
3.	В	28.	opinion	53.	interrogative	_		
4.	A	29.	fact					
5.	D	30.	fact					
6.	A	31.	opinion					
7.	В	32.	opinion					
8.	<u> </u>	33.	true					
9.	D	34.	false					
10.	D	35.	true					
11.	false	36.	false					
12.	true	37.	true					
13.	true	38.	false					
14.	true	39.	false					
15.	false	40.	false					
16.	false	41.	true					
17.	false	42.	true					
18.	false	43.	В					
19.	false	44.	Α					
20.	true	45.	D					
21.	false	46.	Α					
22.	true	47.	С					
23.	fact	48.	declarative					
24.	opinion	49.	interrogative					
25.	fact	50.	declarative					
		ww.Commo	nCoreSheets.com	Page 4	l of 4			

	Garter S	nak	e Name:
Solv	e each problem.	пак	c indifie.
Use	the article to answer the question. How long are most garter snakes? (paragraph 1)		
1)	A.	B.	They are usually between two to three feet long.
	С.	D.	-
2)	What do garter snakes do when they are three A.	B.	ed? (paragraph 4) They play dead
	C. They produce a foul-smelling scent to ward off predators	D.	
3)	What is a unique trait of the garter snake's lif	è cy	cle? (paragraph 3)
	A. Garter snakes adopt other snakes' babies.		Garter snakes give birth to live young instead of laying eggs.
	C.	D.	
4)	When do garter snakes hibernate? (paragraph 3)	_	
	A. In winter		They never hibernate
	C.	D.	
5)	What interesting thing do some garter snakes		for their meals? (paragraph 2)
	A. Climb trees and eat bird eggsC.	B. D	Swim and catch fish
		D.	Swill and catch lish
6)	What do garter snakes look like? (paragraph 1)A. They are long and have stripes running down their bodies.	B.	
	С.	D.	
7)	When do garter snakes usually give birth? (pa	ragrap	h 3)
-	A. In the winter	B.	In the summer
	С.	D.	
8)	Which animal is not a listed predator of garte	er sn	akes? (paragraph 4)
	A. Raccoons		Sheep
	С.	D.	
9)	Where do garter snakes live mostly? (paragraph	3)	
	A. Under the ground	B.	
	С.	D.	Near water bodies
10)	Why are garter snakes called 'garter' snakes?		
	A. C.		They live in garter belt factories Because of the long stripes that run
	С.	D.	lengthwise on their bodies



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

- 11) "In the winter months, you can find us garter snakes sunbathing." (paragraph 3)
- 12) "Did you know that I give birth to live young instead of laying eggs like most snakes?" (paragraph 3)