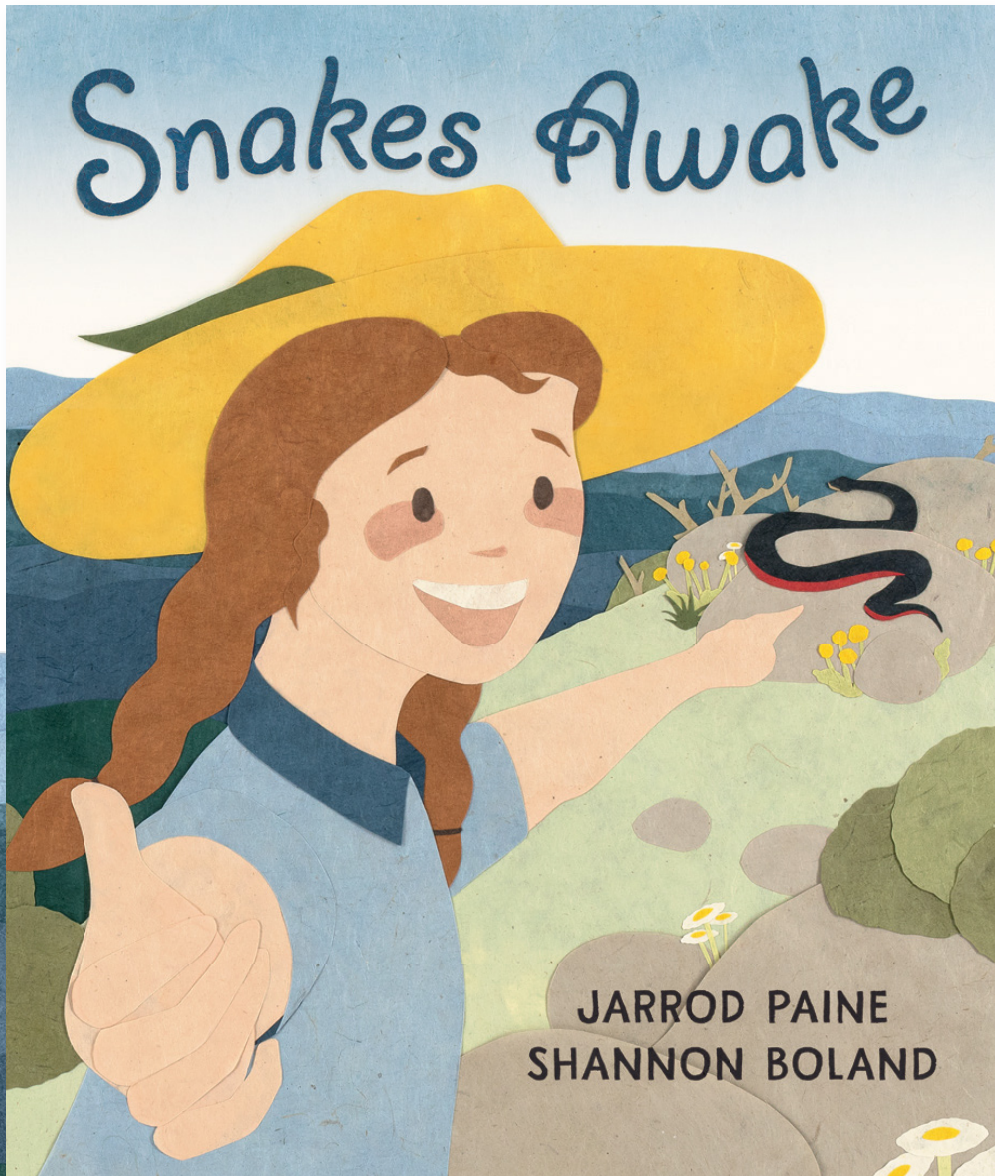


# TEACHER'S NOTES



Written by  
Jarrod Paine

Suitable for  
Ages 4+

Illustrated by  
Shannon Boland

## Themes

- Australian animals, particularly reptiles
- Curiosity and exploration
- Bush Safety

**FORD ST**

Find this book at our website:  
[www.fordstreetpublishing.com](http://www.fordstreetpublishing.com)

# CONTENTS

Overview	3
Questions to ask before we begin	4
Questions to ask while we're reading	4-5
Questions to ask when we've finished reading	5
Art/Craft Activities	6
Doing Activities	11-13
Research Activities	13
Guest Speaker Activities	14





## OVERVIEW

*I love our bushwalks.  
If I'm lucky, I get to see snakes.  
And they're amazing*

Pip explores the outdoors with her mum hoping to spot her favourite creature – a sensational snake. Join her to discover the beauty and excitement of these remarkable reptiles, and learn how to stay safe in the Australian bush.

### Key Points/Themes

- Empowers children and adults to feel confident, prepared and safe to explore the Australian bush.
- Language describes the excitement of adventuring outdoors while introducing children to the world of snakes gently.
- Accurate descriptions of snakes and their common behaviours assists readers to expand their knowledge and reduce their fear.
- Our strong female heroine models confident behaviour, patience and respect for Australian wildlife.
- Children will discover a large range of other wildlife living within the pages of the book, encouraging further curiosity.
- Adult readers will enjoy sharing the learning experience of what to do on chance encounters with snakes in the bush or backyard.
- Readers are guided by essential safety information including:
  - what to bring with you on a short bushwalk,
  - tips for encountering wildlife, and
  - First Aid in case of snake bite.



## QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE WE BEGIN READING

- Have a look at the front cover, what do you think this book will be about?
- What do you think the main character, Pip, is trying to show you?
- Is Pip scared or excited?
- What sort of snake is Pip pointing at?
- By looking at the background, where do you think the story is taking place?
- Why do you think Pip isn't scared of the snake?

## QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE WE ARE READING

### Comprehension

- Snakes Awake begins in the bush. How many different animals can you see in the opening pages?
- Each animal is found in a place they like to live. What are the red and blue Crimson Rosellas doing? And what is the Blue Tongue Lizard doing?
- What do boots and long pants keep us safe from?  
How do boots and pants keep us safe?
- When Pip and her mum go exploring they always take a few items. What are they and what are they for?
- What does Pip use her Nature goggles for?  
Why does she want to spot those things?
- What do Pip and her mum do when they see snakes on the trail?
- What are two things snakes can do when they get scared?
- There are three types of snakes in this book. Can you find them?  
What are their differences?
- What are the seven safety tips for walking outlined by Pip in the story (and summarised at the end of the book)?
- Have a look at the First Aid pages at the end of this book. What is the first thing you should do when someone is bitten or thinks they have been bitten by a snake?

## QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE WE ARE READING (continued)

### Literacy

- **Verbs:** This book shows us that snakes have a few behaviours other than lying in the sun! What other actions can you see? (*hiding, slithering, sleeping*)
- **Adjectives:** Different words are used to describe snakes in the book. Can you list them? (*cool, beautiful, s shape, scared, amazing*)
- **Nouns:** The book takes place in many settings. Which would be your favourite place to see a snake? Your least favourite place to see a snake?

### Numeracy

- There are many snakes (real and toys) in this book. How many are there altogether? How many are real and how many are toys?
- How many Red Bellied Black Snakes are there?  
How many Eastern Brown Snakes are there? How many echidnas are there?
- Estimate the length of the different snakes in the book. Which is the longest?  
*Extension: Research the longest snake in Australia, or the world.*

### Knowledge and Understanding of snakes and their behaviours

Snakes live in many environments across Australia and this book shows us some behaviours of snakes as well as behaviours of humans when they see snakes.

- Name the three main behaviours we see snakes doing in this book.
- Describe what Pip and her mum do in the two close encounters they have with snakes, and the response by the snake.
- What did the family do when they found a snake in their backyard?
- How would you describe the cleanliness of the backyard?
- The snake catcher uses special tools and has expert skills in catching and relocating snakes. Why is that?

## QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN WE'VE FINISHED READING

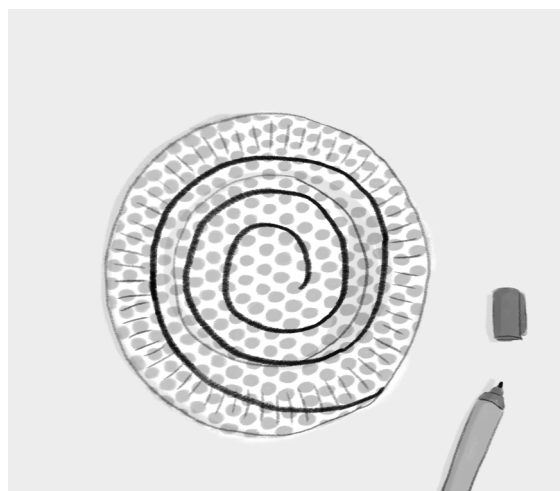
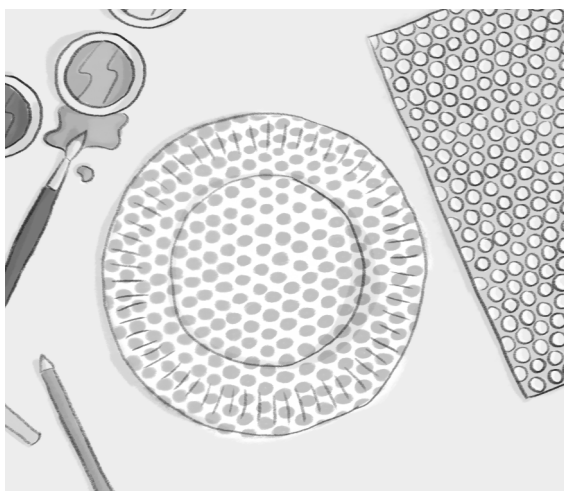
- Which is your favourite snake illustration?
- Which is your favourite animal illustration overall?
- What has this book described for you to do if you see a snake in the future?

## ART/CRAFT: MAKE YOUR OWN SNAKE SLINKY

You will need:

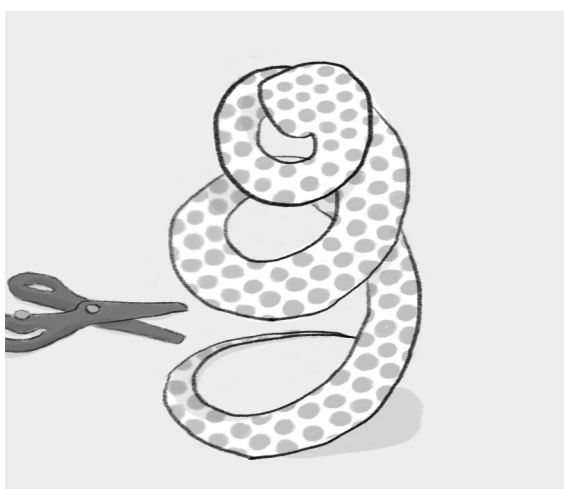
1 x Paper plate  
1 x Small piece of coloured paper  
Googly eyes

Scissors  
Pencils, paint or crayons  
Glue



1. Decorate your paper plate. Create a scale pattern by painting onto a piece of bubble-wrap and pressing the wrap paint-side down onto your plate. Or get creative and decorate how you like!

2. Draw a spiral onto your paper plate, starting from the centre, winding all the way to the edge.



3. Cut along the spiral lines you've drawn. You will end up with one long spiral.



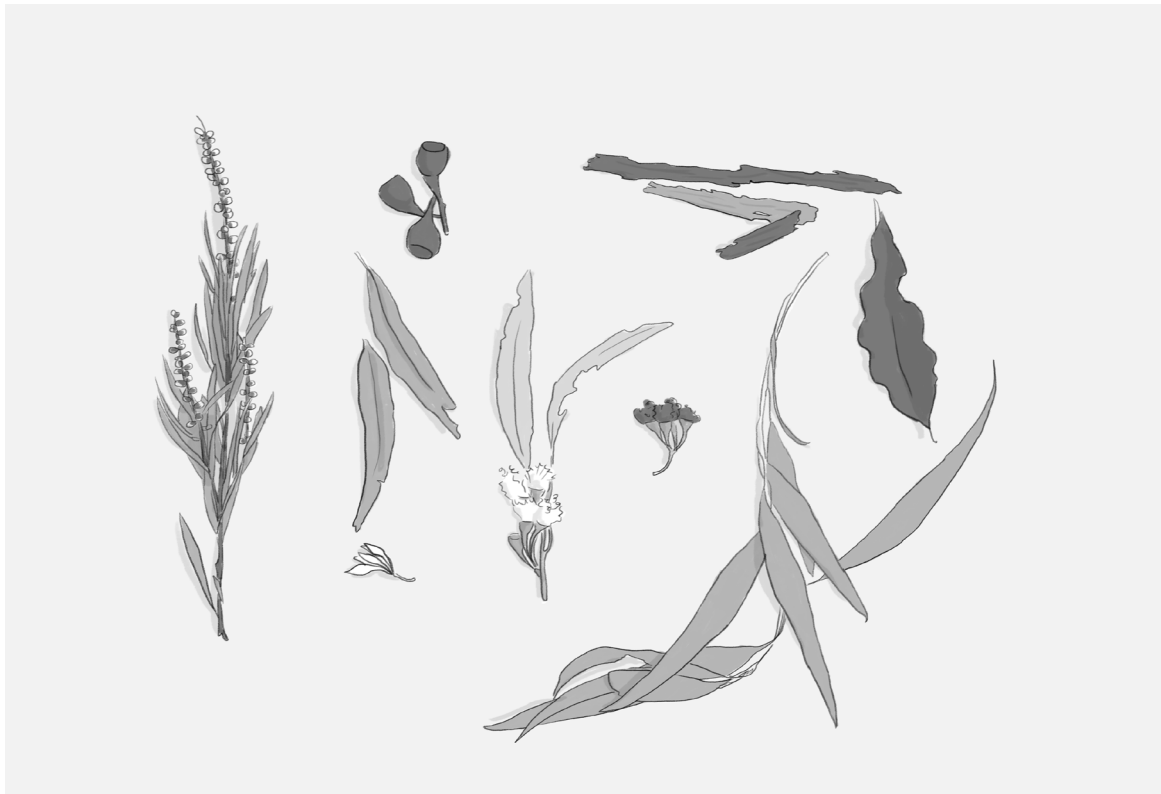
4. Paste on some googly eyes and a tongue and you're finished!

## ART/CRAFT: SNAKE NATURE COLLAGE



Head outdoors and have the students collect a range of natural items like sticks, leaves and seeds. Be careful not to pick anything living or disturb any habitat. Have the students arrange their finds into the lying down S shape of a snake.

*Find nature treasures for the eyes and mouth for bonus design points!*



## ART/CRAFT: MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER-CUT PORTRAIT

Collage is a fun, creative way to create art. Have your students explore their skills in collage and create a portrait of themselves.

There are no rules in collage, everything is an experiment! However, we've listed a few techniques and materials to start you on your collage journey.

### Collage Material Ideas

- Coloured paper
- Magazines
- Newspaper
- Fabric/ribbon scraps
- Tissue paper
- Sequins
- Foil
- Buttons
- Tinsel
- String/yarn
- Bubblewrap
- Pipe cleaners
- Pasta/rice
- Glitter
- Feathers
- Cotton wool
- Pom poms
- or anything else that will stick to your paper!

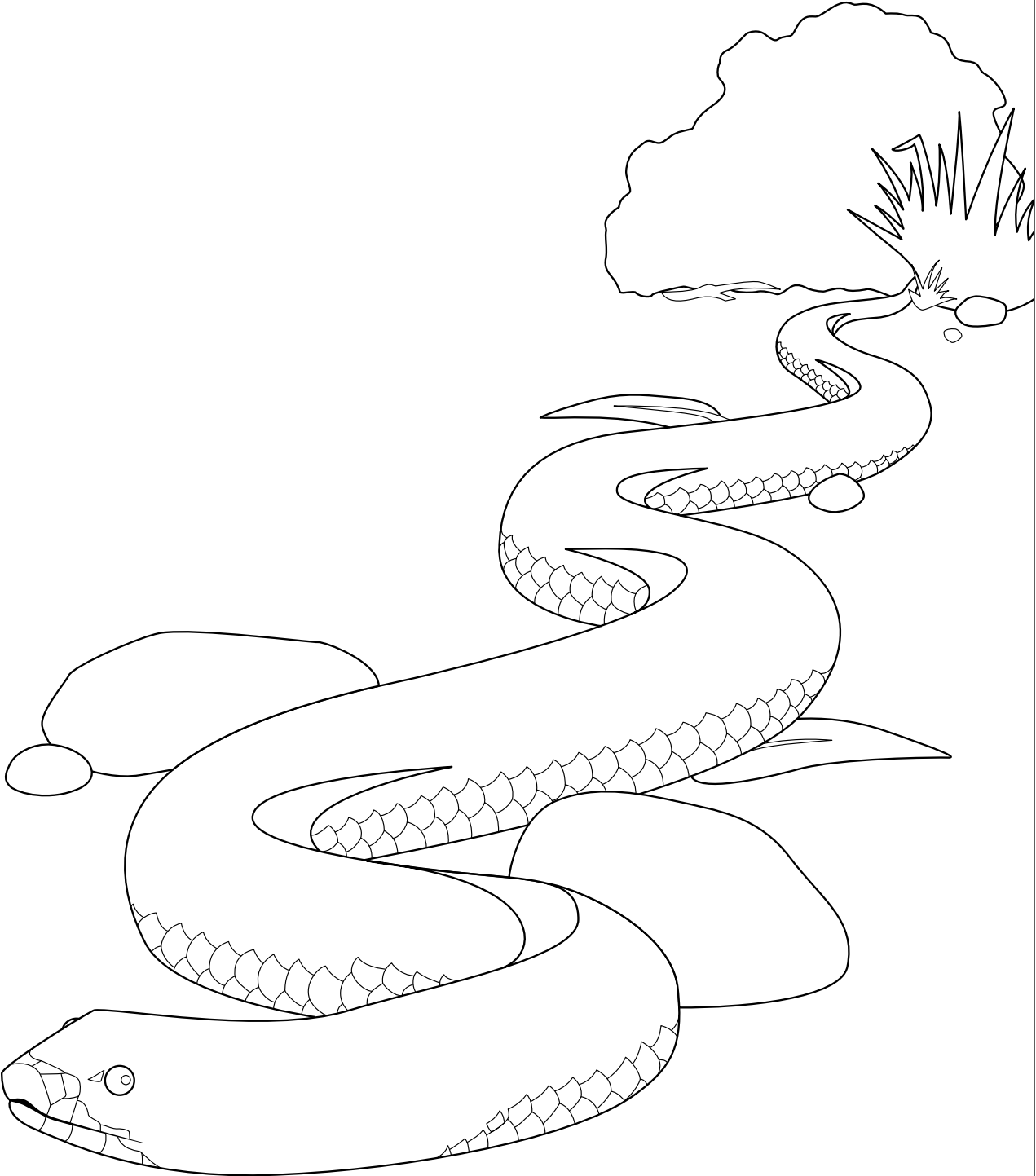
### Techniques

- Cutting
- Tearing
- Painting
- Colouring
- Stamping (similar to how the bubblewrap was used in the snake-slinky activity)
- Weaving





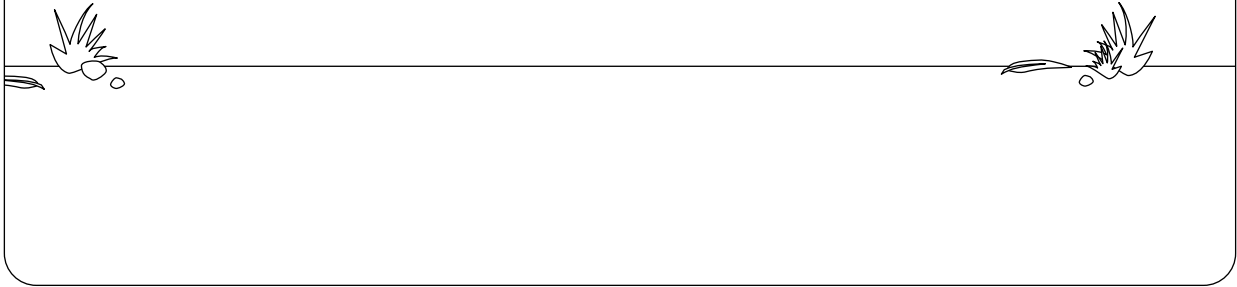
# SENSATIONAL SNAKE COLOURING SHEET



## DOING: SNAKE-SPOTTING WORKSHEET

Using the space provided, draw each snake in the positions stated.  
Describe what a human should do if they see these behaviours.

### Sunbathing snake



What should you do if you see a snake in this position?

---

### S-shape snake



What should you do if you see a snake in this position?

---

### Slithering away snake



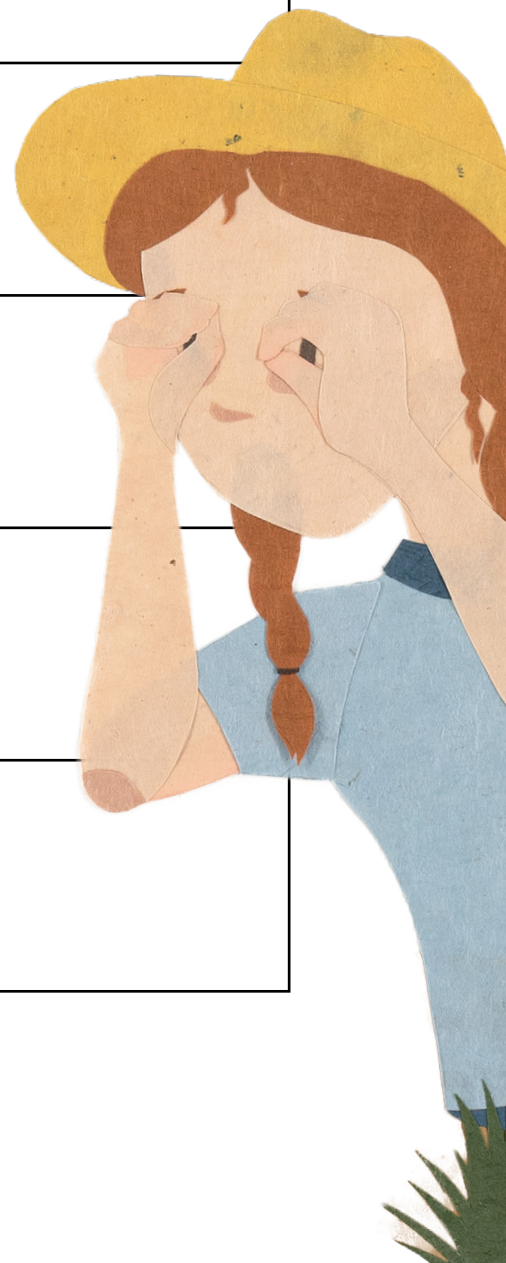
What should you do if you see a snake in this position?

---

## DOING: NATURE GOGGLES

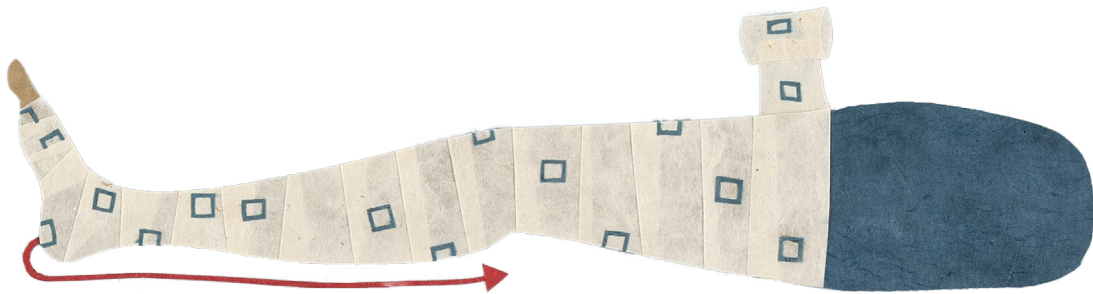
Practise making your nature goggles. Wear them and look out the window of your classroom for one minute. Once the time is up, write down all the animals and insects you spotted.

1.	7.
2.	8.
3.	9.
4.	10.
5.	11.
6.	12.



## DOING: PRACTISE FIRST AID

Practise applying a compression bandage, as described at the end of Snakes Awake.





## DOING: ROLE PLAY

Complete a 2-part role play, with irresponsible/poor snake behaviour in one (i.e. all the things you shouldn't do around snakes, such as poking or teasing it) and sensible snake behaviour in the second (just as the book describes!).

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Research your local snake catcher.
- Research if any snakes have been spotted at your school.  
*Extension: What did your school do about it?*
- Research the different environments of Australia and what snakes prefer these different environments. What is the most colourful snake? Which eats the most mice? What is the smallest growing adult snake?

## INFORMATION POSTER

Make an information poster about your favourite snake (both Jarrod and Shannon's favourite is the Red Bellied Black Snake).

Include the following in your poster:

- How big they grow
- How they have babies
- Their main food
- Their favourite habitat

## GUEST SPEAKER ACTIVITIES

- Invite your local snake catcher to come and present a ‘being safe with snakes’ presentation.
- Organise for a local wildlife demonstrator to bring wildlife to your school, including snakes!
- Contact the author, Jarrod Paine, and organise an in-person or online presentation. Quiz him for more details on the book and snakes in general. Remember he is a licensed and practising snake catcher (and a teacher)!
- Contact the illustrator, Shannon Boland, and learn her amazing collage illustration technique, as used in *Snakes Awake*. You may also like to talk with her about animation!



### About the Author

Jarrod Paine is an author, teacher, and licensed snake catcher from north east Victoria. Writing for him is a passion allowing his energy and enthusiasm for education to bubble onto the page, transporting readers of all ages into the world of adventure and wildlife. When not writing Jarrod can be found adventuring in the mountains.

[jarrodpaine.wixsite.com/jarrodpaine](http://jarrodpaine.wixsite.com/jarrodpaine)



### About the Illustrator

Hailing from the mountains in north east Victoria, Shannon Boland is a river-swimming, bike-riding, bush-walking illustrator and animator. She loves the hands-on element of illustration, working with both traditional mediums and collage. With depth, character and texture she aims to create art that you want to reach out and touch!

[shannonboland.com.au](http://shannonboland.com.au)