

Name _____ Date: _____

CHOMP! How Snakes Eat

Snakes are considered to be carnivores because they eat meat. There are three ways that snakes kill their prey, squeezing, poisoning and swallowing. When snakes squeeze their prey, they wrap around it until it can no longer breathe. Constrictors use this method of killing.

Snakes also use their venom from their fangs to poison their prey. Also, snakes can swallow an animal whole, by using their muscles to push the food into their stomachs.

Some snakes also have up to 200 teeth inside their throat that prevent their prey from escaping their throats. Snakes only have to eat 6 - 30 meals a year in order to be healthy.

Snakes do not have a sense of taste, so they eat just for the nutrition. Snakes help to balance the population of rats, mice and birds by eating them so that our environment doesn't have too many of them.

1. What do snakes eat?

- a. fruits
- b. grass and leaves
- c. meat
- d. vegetables

2. How do snakes kill?

- a. squeeze, poisoning and swallowing
- b. squeeze, lick and bite
- c. squeeze, poison and fang
- d. it doesn't say

3. What does "population" mean?

- a. number of people or animals that live somewhere
- b. kinds of animals in the world