Imagine meeting a snake with a mouth as white as cotton - that's the cottonmouth snake for you! Also known as water moccasins, these snakes sport a dark, thick body that can grow up to 4 feet long. Their heads are broad and



triangular, and when they open their mouths, they display a white, cotton-like interior, hence the name cottonmouth. But don't let their appearance scare you, they're fascinating creatures!

Speaking of fascinating, let's dive into their interesting habitat and diet. Cottonmouth snakes are found in the southeastern United States, often near freshwater bodies like swamps, marshes, and streams. In terms of food, they're not picky eaters at all, munching on everything from fish and frogs, to small mammals and birds! Sometimes, they even eat other snakes, talk about a unique diet!

From their unique diet, let's slither to their life cycle and relationship with other animals. Cottonmouths have an interesting life cycle, starting as eggs inside their mother, they're then born live, which is a bit different from many other snakes that lay eggs. They prefer to keep to themselves and are usually not aggressive unless provoked. However, they play an important role in the ecosystem by controlling the population of their prey.



Now that we know about their life and role, how do they interact with us humans? Well, cottonmouths are known to be the only venomous water snake in North America, so it's best to admire them from a distance. While they're not usually aggressive, they will defend themselves if they feel threatened, often by displaying their namesake cotton-white mouth as a warning before striking. So, remember kids, if you see a cottonmouth, admire its beauty from afar, and let it continue its important role in nature!



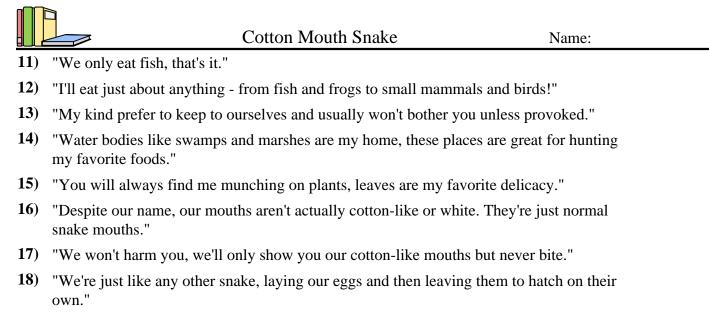
Cotton Mouth Snake

Solve each problem.

Use	the article to answer the question.		
1)	What is the length of a cottonmouth snake?		
	A. Around 2 feet long	В.	Less than a foot long
	C. Up to 10 feet long	D.	Up to 4 feet long
2)	Are cottonmouth snakes aggressive?		
	A. Yes, all the time	B.	Not usually
	C. Only during the winter season	D.	Only when they are hungry
3)	Where can you find the cottonmouth snakes?		
	A. In the southwestern United States	B.	In the northwestern United States
	C. In the northeastern United States	D.	In the southeastern United States
4)	How do cottonmouth snakes play a role in the	e ec	osystem?
	A. They provide shelter for other	В.	They control the population of their
	animals		prey
	C. They clean the water in freshwater bodies	D.	They help pollinate flowers
5)	What is unique about the life cycle of cottonn	nou	th snakes?
5)	A. They hibernate during winter		They can breathe underwater
	C. They are born live, unlike most		They never shed their skin
	snakes that lay eggs	2.	
6)	What does the inside of a cottonmouth snake'	s m	outh look like?
	A. As green as grass	В.	As red as a cherry
	C. As white as cotton	D.	As black as coal
7)	What type of bodies of water do cottonmouth	sna	kes often live near?
	A. Oceans and seas	В.	Desert oasis
	C. Swamps, marshes, and streams	D.	Hot springs and geysers
8)	What is the nickname for a cottonmouth snak	e?	
,	A. Grassy cobra	B.	Water moccasins
	C. Cotton bear	D.	Muddy python
9)	How do cottonmouth snakes defend themselv	ves v	when they feel threatened?
	A. By playing dead	В.	By shooting venom from their mouths
	C. By displaying their cotton-white	D.	By suddenly slithering away at high
	mouth as a warning before they strike		speed
10)	Where are cottonmouth snakes often found?		
	A. In the mountains	B.	In the Arctic
	C. Near freshwater bodies	D.	Near deserts

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

1-10										
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0



- **19)** "My mouth is as dark as the starry night sky."
- **20)** "We cottonmouth snakes are a bit different from other snakes because we're born alive instead of hatching from eggs."
- 21) "We're not fond of water. In fact, we avoid it and instead, live in the dry sandy deserts."
- **22)** "I'm called a cottonmouth snake because when I open my mouth, it looks like there's cotton in there!"

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

- 23) Cottonmouth snakes are the only venomous water snake in North America.
- 24) Cottonmouths have a more interesting diet than other snakes.
- **25)** Cottonmouth snakes can grow up to 4 feet long.
- **26)** Cottonmouths are really scary because they are the only venomous water snake in North America.
- 27) Cottonmouth snakes are commonly found in the southeastern United States.
- **28)** The fact Cottonmouth snake will eat other snakes is quite disgusting.
- **29**) Cottonmouth snakes eat fish, frogs, small mammals, birds, and sometimes other snakes.
- **30)** Cottonmouth snakes generally make their homes near freshwater bodies, such as swamps and marshes.
- **31**) It is fascinating to see cottonmouth snakes coming out of their mother instead of hatching from eggs.
- **32)** It is really scary to see the white inside of a cottonmouth snake's mouth.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- **33**) Cottonmouth snakes have a white, cotton-like interior in their mouth.
- 34) When they feel threatened, cottonmouths inflate their bodies to scare away predators.
- **35)** Cottonmouth snakes can grow up to 4 feet long.
- **36)** Cottonmouth snakes are only found in the desert.
- **37)** Cottonmouths are found in the southeastern United States.
- **38**) Cottonmouth snakes are only found in South Carolina.



- **39**) Cottonmouth snakes are herbivores.
- **40**) Cottonmouth snakes are not venomous.
- 41) Cottonmouth snakes are the only venomous water snake in North America.
- 42) Cottonmouths are also known as water moccasins.

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

- **43**) Cottonmouth snakes are semi-aquatic and are often found near bodies of water.
- 44) What are the warning signs of a cotton mouth snake bite?
- **45**) Cottonmouth snakes are found in the southeastern United States.
- 46) Cottonmouth snakes are also known as water moccasins.
- **47)** How do cotton mouth snakes defend themselves?
- **48)** How venomous are cotton mouth snakes?

	Cotton Mouth Snake	Name:
1	26	
2.	27.	
3.	28.	
4.	29.	
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23.	48.	
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25.		
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Imagine meeting a snake with a mouth as white as cotton - that's the cottonmouth snake for you! Also known as water moccasins, these snakes sport a dark, thick body that can grow up to 4 feet long. Their heads are broad and



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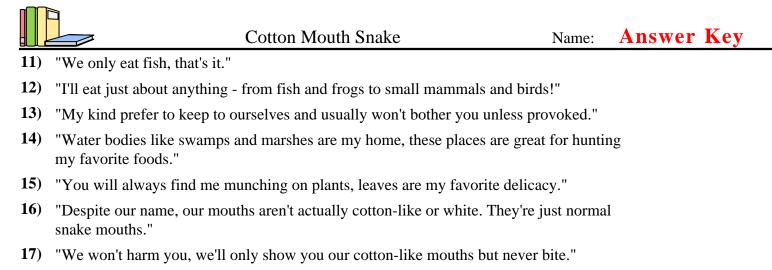
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Solve each problem.

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	animals		prey			
	C. They clean the water in freshwater bodies	D.	They help pollinate flowers			
	bodies					
5)	What is unique about the life cycle of cottonn	nou	th snakes?			
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	mouth as a warning before they strike		speed			
10)	Where are cottonmouth snakes often found?					
	A. In the mountains	B.	In the Arctic			
	C. Near freshwater bodies	D.	Near deserts			

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



- **18)** "We're just like any other snake, laying our eggs and then leaving them to hatch on their own."
- **19)** "My mouth is as dark as the starry night sky."
- **20)** "We cottonmouth snakes are a bit different from other snakes because we're born alive instead of hatching from eggs."
- 21) "We're not fond of water. In fact, we avoid it and instead, live in the dry sandy deserts."
- 22) "I'm called a cottonmouth snake because when I open my mouth, it looks like there's cotton in there!"

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- 47) How do cotton mouth snakes defend themselves?
- **48)** How venomous are cotton mouth snakes?

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	23.	fact	48.	interrogative			
25. fact	24.	opinion					
Reading Page 4 of 4							

Reading

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Cotton Mouth Snake

Solve each problem.

Solve each problem.							
	Use the article to answer the question.1) What is the length of a cottonmouth snake? (paragraph 1)						
1)	A.	-	Less than a foot long				
	C.		Up to 4 feet long				
2)	Are cottonmouth snakes aggressive? (paragraph 4						
	A. Yes, all the time		Not usually				
	С.	D.					
3)	Where can you find the cottonmouth snakes?	(pars	agraph 2)				
5)	A. In the southwestern United States		In the northwestern United States				
	C.		In the southeastern United States				
	с.	D.	in the southeastern officed States				
4)	How do cottonmouth snakes play a role in the	e ec	osystem? (paragraph 3)				
	A. They provide shelter for other	В.	They control the population of their				
	animals		prey				
	С.	D.					
5)	What is unique about the life cycle of cottonr	nou	th snakes? (paragraph 3)				
	A. They hibernate during winter		They can breathe underwater				
	C. They are born live, unlike most	D.	5				
	snakes that lay eggs						
6)	What does the inside of a cottonmouth snake	's m	outh look like? (paragraph 1)				
	A. As green as grass	B.	As red as a cherry				
	C. As white as cotton	D.					
7)	What type of bodies of water do cottonmouth	n sna	akes often live near? (paragraph 2)				
ŗ	A. Oceans and seas	B.					
	C. Swamps, marshes, and streams	D.					
Q)							
8)	What is the nickname for a cottonmouth snak A.		Water moccasins				
	А. С.	D.	water moccasins				
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	А.	В.	By shooting venom from their mouths				
	C. By displaying their cotton-white	D.					
	mouth as a warning before they strike						
10)	Where are cottonmouth snakes often found?	(parag	graph 2)				
	А.	В.	In the Arctic				
	C. Near freshwater bodies	D.					

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



Cotton Mouth Snake

- 11) "We only eat fish, that's it." (paragraph 2)
- 12) "I'll eat just about anything from fish and frogs to small mammals and birds!" (paragraph 2)

