

Some interesting facts about snakes:

- Britain boasts the adder, grass snake and smooth snake. The adder is the only one which is venomous.
- Snakes have two sets of teeth on the upper jaw, one set on the lower jaw. Snakes which are poisonous have fangs. The fangs, unlike normal teeth, are hollow. This means they can inject their toxin with the efficiency of a hypodermic syringe. They do not need a lot of venom – the venom of a cobra can kill an elephant.
- The swiftest snake on land is the Black Mamba. They can reach speeds of up to 12 miles per hour.
- Constricting snakes have very flexible jaws and muscular bodies. Pythons, for example, can and will crush and eat almost anything. A large meal (eg a human being) will sustain on of these snakes for about a year.
- A dead rattlesnake can still bite you if you get too close. The snake's heat sensors remain active until rigor mortis is complete, a day or more later.
- The most toxic snake of all is the Taipan snake of Australia. It could kill 100 people with a single bite, but thankfully is quite a placid snake and reserves its wrath for rats.