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!

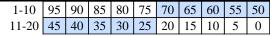


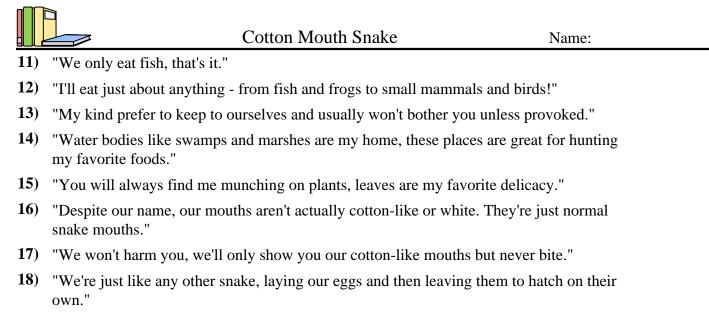
Cotton Mouth Snake

Solve each problem.

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

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





- **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 Sna	ake Name:
1	26	
2.	27.	
3.	28.	
4.	29.	
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12.	37	
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14	39	
15	40.	
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17	42.	
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19.	44	
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21	46	
22.	47	
23.	48	
24		
25.		
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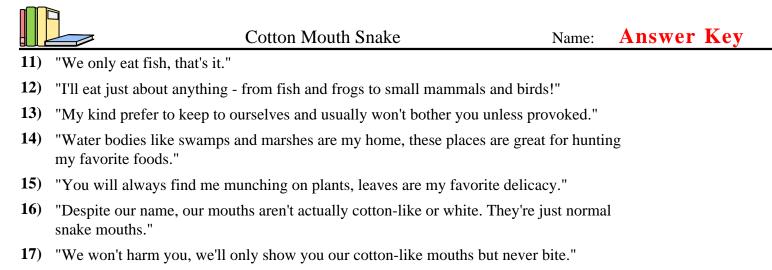


Name: Answer Key

Solve each problem.

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Use	Use the article to answer the question.						
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,	A. They help pollinate flowers		They control the population of their				
			prey				
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	bodies		animals				
_							
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	-						
10)	Where are cottonmouth snakes often found?						
	A. Near freshwater bodies	В.	In the mountains				
	C. Near deserts	D.	In the Arctic				
D (•					

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."
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		(Cotton Mouth S	nake	Na	me:	Answer	Key
1.	С	26.	opinion					
2.	B	27.	fact					
3.	С	28.	opinion					
4.	В	29.	fact					
5.	D		fact					
6.	С	31.	opinion					
7.	В	32.	opinion					
8.	Α	33.	true					
9.	D	34.	false					
10.	Α	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.	declarative					
19.	false	44.	interrogative					
20.	true	45.	declarative					
21.	false	46.	declarative					
22.	true	47.	interrogative					
23.	fact	48.	interrogative					
24.	opinion	_						
25.	fact	_						
	Reading	www.Commo	onCoreSheets.com	Page 4 of 4				

	Cotton Mour	th Snake	Name:				
Use	Solve each problem. Use the article to answer the question.						
1)	What is the length of a cottonmouth snake? (A. Around 2 feet longC. Up to 4 feet long	B. D.					
2)	Are cottonmouth snakes aggressive? (paragraph A. Yes, all the time C.	⁴⁾ B. Not usually D.					
3)	Where can you find the cottonmouth snakes?A. In the southwestern United StatesC. In the southeastern United States	? (paragraph 2) B. In the northeast D.	ern United States				
4)	How do cottonmouth snakes play a role in th A. They help pollinate flowers	B. They control th prey	h 3) e population of their				
-		D.					
5)	What is unique about the life cycle of cottomA. They hibernate during winterC.	B. They never she D. They are born l snakes that lay	d their skin ive, unlike most				
6)	What does the inside of a cottonmouth snakeA. As green as grassC. As white as cotton	e's mouth look like? (B. D.	paragraph 1)				
7)	What type of bodies of water do cottonmouth A. Hot springs and geysers C.	h snakes often live ne B. Swamps, marsh D.					
8)	What is the nickname for a cottonmouth snal A. Water moccasins C.	ke? (paragraph 1) B. Grassy cobra D.					
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	A. Near freshwater bodies	B. In the mountair	18				

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

D.

C.



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)

