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!



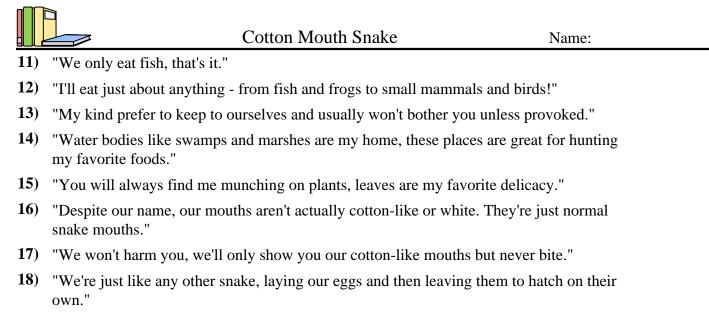
Cotton Mouth Snake

### Solve each problem.

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

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.
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- 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.	
5.	30.	
6.	31.	
7.	32.	
8.	33.	
9.	34	
10.	35.	
11	36.	
12.	37	
13.	38.	
14.	39.	
15	40.	
16	41	
17	42.	
18.	43.	
19.	44.	
20.	45	
21.	46.	
22.	47	
23.	48.	
24.		
25.		
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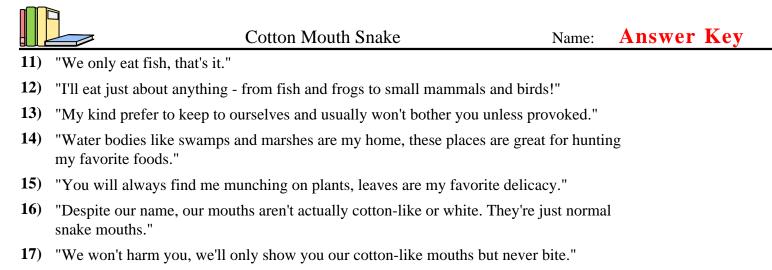


Name: Answer Key

### Solve each problem.

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, ,	A. Only when they are hungry	B.	Yes, all the time
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3)	Where can you find the cottonmouth snakes?		
	A. In the southeastern United States		In the northwestern United States
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	A. They provide shelter for other	В.	They help pollinate flowers
	animals		
	C. They control the population of their	D.	They clean the water in freshwater
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0)			-1
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10)	Where are cottonmouth snakes often found?		
	A. Near deserts	В.	In the Arctic
	C. Near freshwater bodies	D.	In the mountains

## 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 Sn	ake	Name:	Answer Key
1.	Α	26.	opinion			
2.	D	27.	fact			
3.	A	28.	opinion			
4.	С	29.	fact			
5.	Α	30.	fact			
6.	D	31.	opinion			
7.	В	32.	opinion			
8.	<u> </u>	33.	true			
9.	В	34.	false			
10.	С	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					
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	7

## Solve each problem.

	the article to answer the question. What is the length of a cottonmouth snake? (p	paragraph 1)
	<ul><li>A. Up to 4 feet long</li><li>C.</li></ul>	B. D.
2)	Are cottonmouth snakes aggressive? (paragraph 4 A. Only when they are hungry C.	<sup>4)</sup> B. D. Not usually
3)	Where can you find the cottonmouth snakes? A. In the southeastern United States C.	(paragraph 2) B. In the northwestern United States D.
4)	<ul><li>How do cottonmouth snakes play a role in the</li><li>A. They provide shelter for other animals</li><li>C. They control the population of their prey</li></ul>	e ecosystem? (paragraph 3) B. They help pollinate flowers D.
5)	<ul><li>What is unique about the life cycle of cottonr</li><li>A. They are born live, unlike most snakes that lay eggs</li><li>C.</li></ul>	nouth snakes? (paragraph 3) B. They never shed their skin D.
6)	What does the inside of a cottonmouth snake A. C.	s mouth look like? (paragraph 1) B. As red as a cherry D. As white as cotton
7)	What type of bodies of water do cottonmouth A. Desert oasis C.	<ul><li>snakes often live near? (paragraph 2)</li><li>B. Swamps, marshes, and streams</li><li>D.</li></ul>
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10)	<ul><li>Where are cottonmouth snakes often found? (A.</li><li>C. Near freshwater bodies</li></ul>	

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)

