

Lesson 3
READ THIS STORY #2, Advanced

Snakes

Snakes seem to make us feel uneasy. Perhaps it's the strangeness of their unblinking stare that disturbs us. Snakes never shut their eyes because they have no eyelids.

Snakes often startle and surprise us. We may not be aware that they are close to us until they rustle in the grass and begin to slither away. We feel an unexpected sense of danger.

Most snakes will not harm us, but there are venomous snakes in almost all parts of the United States. Never handle a snake unless you're absolutely sure it is not a venomous one.

When it's cold, snakes are not very active. In the spring and summer, snakes like to lie in the sun, on stone walls or rocky ledges. If it gets too hot, they'll seek shade in piles of brush or under rocks. So don't put your hand where you cannot see.

If you should be bitten by a snake, don't panic, but get medical attention as soon as possible.