



Student Worksheet

Taipan Level

Name: _____

The answers can be found by exploring the dome, watching the snake show, and using your brain!

SAFARI ROOM (located in the center of the Skydome)

1. What is the scientific name of the ornate box turtle? _____
2. Compare and contrast the tortoises vs. the turtles in this room. What's different or the same about their shells, legs, and heads? _____

3. Is there a food web in this room? Draw a food web with at least 6 Safari Room organisms in it. (PS – you might not see them, but there are crickets)

MEZZANINE (upstairs level of the Skydome)

4. Where is the Anaconda native? How about the King Cobra?

5. Why do you think very large snakes occur in the tropics, but not here in the Midwest?

6. How long can the fangs of a Gaboon Viper get? _____
7. What is strange, and useful, about the eyes of the Asian Vine Snake?

8. What is the maximum length of a Black Mamba? _____
9. List 3 native South Dakota Snakes that are on display:

LOWER RING (downstairs level of the Skydome)

10. How toxic is the venom of the black widow compared to the venom of most rattlesnakes? _____
11. The Marine Toad, or Cane Toad, was introduced to Australia to eradicate insect pests from sugarcane. How did that work out? _____

12. Our curator Ken Earnest was the first in the world to breed Cuban Crocodiles successfully in captivity. How many are estimated to survive in the wild? _____
13. Prior to the development of antivenom, what percentage of Death Adder bites in Australia were fatal? _____
14. What makes the Saw-scaled Viper dangerous? _____

15. Maniac, the Australian Saltwater Crocodile, is currently estimated to weigh 1250 lbs. Our young American Alligator, named "Fluffy," weighs about 2 lbs. How many Fluffies would it take to weigh the same amount as Maniac? _____ Which would you rather have chasing you, _____ Fluffies or one Maniac? _____

SNAKE SHOW

16. Why do snakes flick their tongues in and out? _____
Why do you think their tongues are forked? _____
17. How do you think rattlesnakes can benefit humans? _____

18. TRUE OR FALSE
- a. All snakes are carnivores
 - b. Cobras have excellent hearing
 - c. Prairie rattlesnakes can get up to 12 feet long
 - d. Some snakes can swallow prey bigger than their heads
 - e. Snakes that have round pupils are nonvenomous

BONUS QUESTION: VERY HARD!!!

What kind of snake is good at math? _____