









Unit 15. Poisonous Snakes and Insects







Vocabulary

			
a plant plants	an animal animals	an insect insects	a caterpillar caterpillars












Examples of Animals

			
an alligator	a snake	a raccoon	an armadillo







Examples of Insects

			
a spider	an ant	a yellowjacket	a mosquito

Colors

										
red	orange	yellow	green	blue	purple	brown	tan	black	gray	white

Shapes

					
a circle	a square	a triangle	a rectangle	a diamond	a pattern

Poisonous Snakes that Live in Pinellas County

More than 40 kinds of snakes live in Florida.

Most snakes in Florida are harmless and not poisonous.

Six kinds of Florida snakes can make you very sick or kill you. They are poisonous.

Four of the six kinds of poisonous snakes live in Pinellas County.

If a poisonous snake bites you, get medical help immediately. If you don't get help, you will get very sick. You can even die if a poisonous snake bites you.

This is the most poisonous snake in Florida. →

It is a coral snake.

It is small. It is very pretty.

And it is very poisonous—it can kill you.

Coral snakes have a small black head.

Coral snakes have a black nose.

Coral snakes are black, yellow, and red.

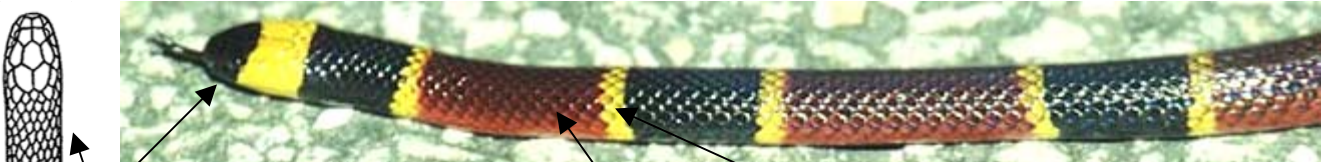


a coral snake

If a coral snake bites you, call 911 immediately!

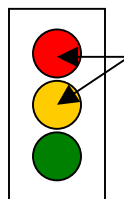
Or, go to a hospital emergency room.

another coral snake



Its head is small and black. In its pattern, red always touches yellow. Red never touches black.

Remember, "Red touching yellow can kill a fellow. Red touching black is OK for Jack."



Red is next to yellow on a traffic signal.

The red and yellow colors mean "DANGER! Slow down and stop."

Red touches yellow on the coral snake. This means "DANGER! Stop!"

Back away from the snake slowly. Do not make any sudden moves.

Pronunciation

c	p	s	sn	bl	br
color	poison	see	snake	black	brown
come	poisonous	say	snack	blue	bring
coral	pattern	some	snap	bleed	break
can	purple	sick	Snickers	blood	brick
can't	Pinellas	same	sneakers	block	brush

-ed (-ead)	gr	y	t	h	wh
bed	green	yell	touch	harm	white
red	gray	yellow	taste	hurt	which
dead	grow	yes	tan	help	why
head	great	you	tick	hand	where
instead	grin	young	take	head	when

Clap the Stress

X	X x	X x	X X x X x	X X x X
red	poison	walking	red touching yellow	red touching black
white	pattern	touching	CAN kill a fellow	OK for Jack
blue	purple	helping	white touching orange	red touching blue
black	yellow	running	Ted teaching English	tan touching gray
green	diamond	danger	Juan teaching Spanish	white touching green

Conversations



1: Look at that pretty snake!

2: Where?

1: Over there.

2: Stay away from it! It might be poisonous!

1: It's not poisonous.

2: How do you know?

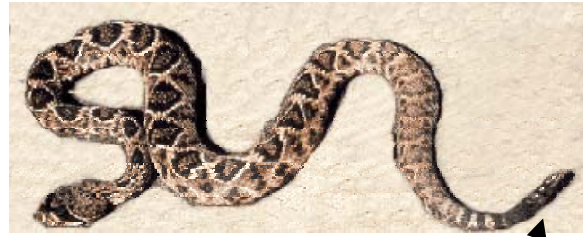
1. "Red touching black is OK for Jack."

Rattlesnakes and Cottonmouths are Poisonous

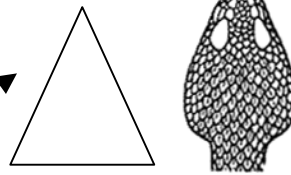
This is a rattlesnake.

It has a rattle on its tail.
It has a big head.
The head looks like a triangle.

Rattlesnakes are poisonous.
They can make you sick.
They can kill you.



When a rattlesnake shakes its tail, it sounds like a rattle.



Rattlesnakes and cottonmouths have heads shaped like a triangle.



*a cottonmouth
no rattles, but poisonous*



*a diamondback rattlesnake
Do you see the diamond pattern on its back?*



a pygmy rattlesnake

What to Do if a Snake Bites You

If you know it is poisonous, call 911 or go to the hospital emergency room immediately.
If you are not sure, call the Florida Poison Information Network 1-800-222-1212.

- Do not pick up the snake.
- Do not put ice on the snake bite.
- Do not cut and suck the snake bite.
- Do not use a tourniquet.



a tourniquet on an arm

Insects and Caterpillars that are Poisonous

Black Widow Spiders

Some spiders can hurt you if they bite you. They can make you sick, but they won't kill you.

Black widow spiders are poisonous. They have an hourglass on their stomachs.

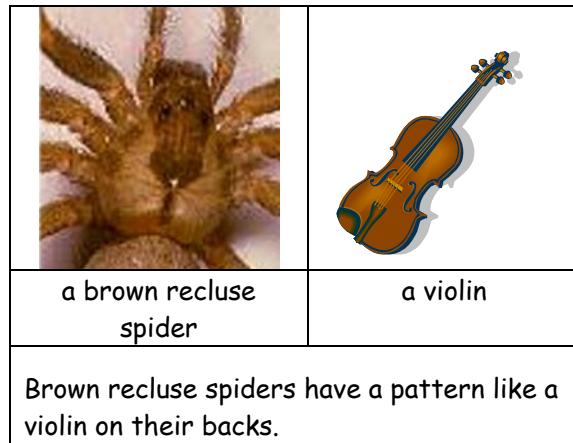


Sometimes black widow spiders are brown or red, instead of black. Then they have orange or red circles instead of a red hourglass.

Brown Recluse Spiders

Brown recluse spiders are poisonous.

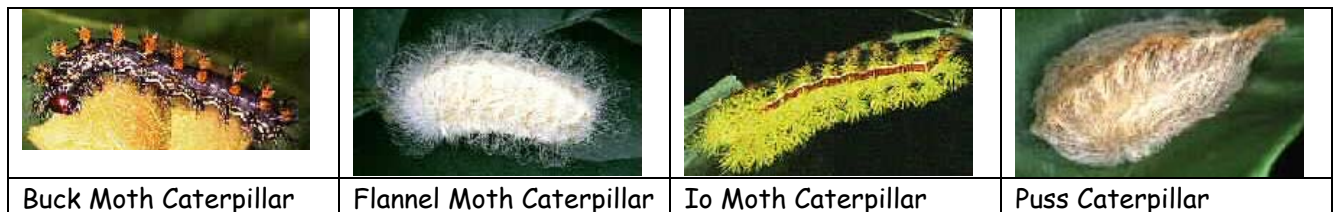
Brown recluse spiders are small— about the size of a quarter. These spiders have a pattern that looks like a violin.



Some Caterpillars are Poisonous

Poisonous caterpillars don't bite. They carry their poison in their hairs or spines. Most people just feel stinging and itching from poisonous caterpillars.

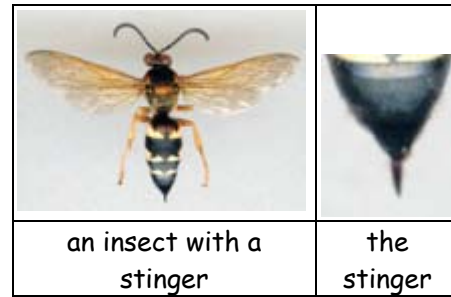
These are examples of poisonous caterpillars:



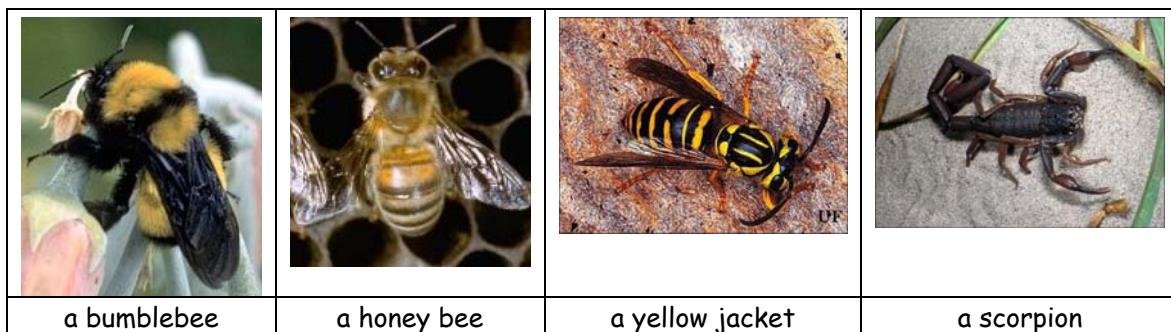
Some Insects Sting People

Some insects sting people instead of biting them.
 They sting people with a stinger.
 The stinger looks like a needle.
 It feels like a needle, too, when they sting you.

Bees have stingers.
 Yellow jackets and hornets have stingers.
 Wasps have stingers.



When these insects sting you, it feels like a needle.
 Sometimes the sting gets hot. Sometimes the sting gets red.
 Stings can hurt a lot. Stings can make you sick for a few hours or a few days.



What to Do When a Poisonous Insect Bites or Stings You

Insect bites and stings can hurt.
 Insect bites and stings can make your skin red or hot and swell up.
 Insect bites and stings can itch.
 But few insect bites or stings can kill you.

Some people are allergic to insect bites.
 If an insect bites your hand, but your whole arm swells up, you may be allergic.
 If your chest hurts or you can't breathe or speak, you may be allergic.
 If things like this happen, call 911 immediately.

If you don't know what kind of insect hurt you, call 1-800-222-1222.
 This is the Florida Poison Information Center. You can call this number any time, any day (24/7).

Internet Activities

1. What does a rattlesnake's rattle sound like?

Go to www.rattlesnakes.com to hear a snake rattle. You can see pictures of rattlesnakes from all over the world at this site.



2. Where can I go for information about poisonous things?

Go to <http://www.poisoncentertampa.org> and click on what you want to know about.

Venomous Critters is about poisonous animals and insects. You can click on *Poisonous Plants*. If you want to see all of the information in Spanish, click here:

POISON Help
1-800-222-1222

FLORIDA
Poison Information Center - Tampa

Home
About Us
First Aid
Prevention
En Español
About Herbals
Seniors
Venomous Critters
Poisonous Plants

When a poisoning occurs, call toll-free
1-800-222-1222
24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

We provide expert advice in poisoning emergencies.
Florida Poison Information Center - Tampa provides free confidential 24-hour telephone access to emergency advice in cases of exposure to poison. We assist with over 40,000 poisonings per year. Over 80% of accidental poisonings can be safely treated at home with our guidance. Within minutes, our professionals can advise if treatment should be carried out at a hospital or at home. We follow up with you by phone until the crisis is over.

We provide information on the following:

- Bites & stings from insects, spiders, reptiles, marine life
- Household & personal products
- Pesticides & chemicals
- Food poisoning
- Plants and mushrooms
- Prescription & over-the-counter medicine
- Herbal & dietary supplements drugs
- Substances of abuse

printing instructions

We provide expert advice to health care

Comprehension Check

You can find the answers to these questions on the *Poison Information Center* web site.

- a. Ten kinds of aquatic animals (animals that live in the sea) are poisonous.





Write their names here:





- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 10. _____ |





- b. What is the telephone number of the Poison Information Center?

Quiz

Look at these pictures of Florida snakes. For each snake, check poisonous or nonpoisonous.

1	2	3	4
			
Poisonous ____	Poisonous ____	Poisonous ____	Poisonous ____
Nonpoisonous ____	Nonpoisonous ____	Nonpoisonous ____	Nonpoisonous ____

5	6	7	8
			
Poisonous ____	Poisonous ____	Poisonous ____	Poisonous ____
Nonpoisonous ____	Nonpoisonous ____	Nonpoisonous ____	Nonpoisonous ____

9	10	11	12
			
Poisonous ____	Poisonous ____	Poisonous ____	Poisonous ____
Nonpoisonous ____	Nonpoisonous ____	Nonpoisonous ____	Nonpoisonous ____

