Let's Go Native Project

Water Moccasin Snake

Brown, olive or blackish dark body, about 30” long, with a lighter belly and body cross-bands which have a distinct border extending all the way around and across the yellowish stomach.

By: John Smith

Organism Structure

Organism Function

Organism Research

Classification

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Class: Reptilia
- Order: Squamata
- Family: Crotalidae
- Genus: Agkistrodon
- Species: piscivorus

- Very venomous
- Very aggressive
- Semi aquatic
- Young are born alive
- Older snakes lose their pattern and appear black
- Pit viper which eats both cold-blooded and warm-blooded prey
Organism’s Habitat

The water moccasin’s habitat is mainly in the Coastal Plains, but can range as far north as Virginia. This snake is found in nearly all fresh water habitats, but most commonly in cypress swamps, river floodplains and heavily-vegetated wetlands. They will venture overland, especially in response to drought, thus making them especially vulnerable to habitat loss and fragmentation.

Organism’s Niche

Eats turtles, birds, rabbits, baby alligators, snakes, and fish.

Requires: Inland wetlands, isolation from humans, natural features, such as cliffs and ledges.

Kills prey with venom: ambushes and active foraging strategies.

Trophic Level in Ecosystem

Water moccasins are carnivores, animals that eat other animals, thus placing them at the top of the pyramid of life.

Can your organism be part of our freshwater ecosystem?

The water moccasin can survive in our ecosystem, but is extremely venomous and therefore should not be part of the ecosystem at our school.