

1. The elongated rear teeth of the Eastern Hog-Nosed Snake penetrate the toad's body wall and puncture its lungs, deflating the toad.

False - The enlarged rear teeth are too short to puncture the toad's lungs. The enlarged teeth channel venom into the bite which, and the envenomation relaxes the toad for easy consumption.

Reference: Ernst, C.H. and G.R. Zug. 2004. Snakes in Question. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 177 pages.

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2. The heat sensing pits found on our native Virginia venomous snakes are 5 to 10 times more sensitive than those of pythons and some boas.

True.

Reference: Ernst, Carl H. and Ernst, Evelyn M. 2011. Venomous Reptiles of the United States, Canada and Northern Mexico - Volume 1. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore. MD. 352 pages.

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3. Venom extracted directly from the venom gland is more toxic than venom drawn from the fang.

False - Venom extracted from the venom gland is less toxic than venom drawn from the fang. Secretions from the accessory gland while nontoxic, may activate some venom components.

Reference: Ernst, Carl H. and Ernst, Evelyn M. 2011. Venomous Reptiles of the United States, Canada and Northern Mexico - Volume 1. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore. MD. 352 pages

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4. The venom duct does not enter the fang but instead opens adjacent to it within a sheath of connective tissue surrounding the base of the fang. This sheath acts as a seal around the fang that direct the flow of venom into the fang.

True.

Reference: Ernst, Carl H. and Ernst, Evelyn M. 2011. Venomous Reptiles of the United States, Canada and Northern Mexico - Volume 1. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore. MD. 352 pages

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5. The Eastern Copperhead, Northern Cottonmouth and Timber Rattlesnake all lay eggs.

False - All produce live young (ovoviviparous).

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6. The venom of neonates and small juveniles is more potent than that of adults of their own species.

True - However this slight potency difference does not make smaller venomous snakes more dangerous than Adults. Adult venomous snakes can deliver a much greater volume of venom.

Reference: Ernst, Carl H. and Ernst, Evelyn M. 2011. Venomous Reptiles of the United States, Canada and Northern Mexico - Volume 1. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore. MD. 352 pages

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7. The venom for littermates can vary in chemistry and potency.

True.

Reference: Ernst, Carl H. and Ernst, Evelyn M. 2011. Venomous Reptiles of the United States, Canada and Northern Mexico - Volume 1. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore. MD. 352 pages.