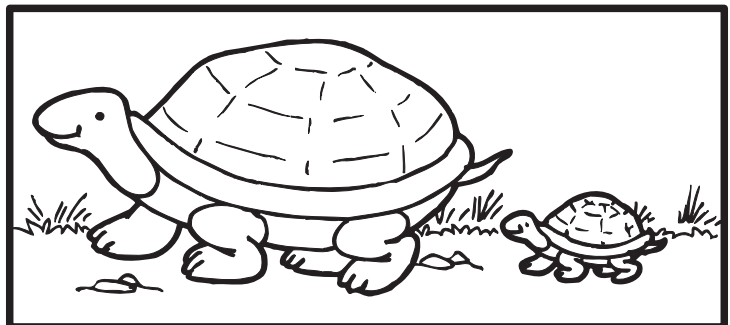


CONTENTS

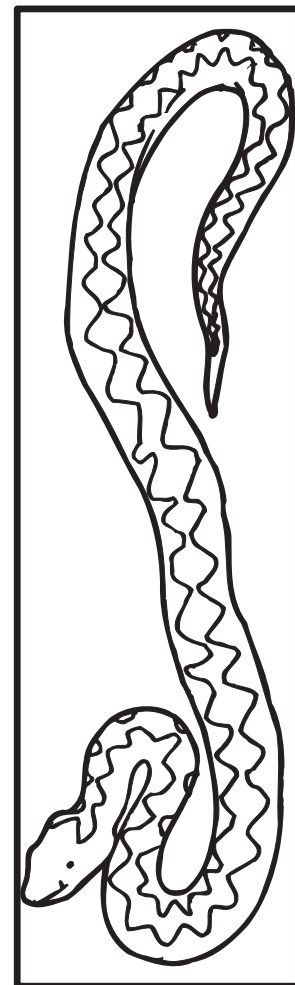
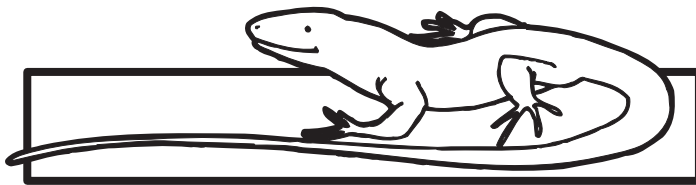
Introduction	4	Chapter 4: Alligators & Crocodiles	51
All about Snakes, Slugs, Snails ...	6	Lovable as Lyle	52
Chapter 1: Snakes	7	How Crocodiles Brush	53
Little Verdis	8	Where Alligators Come from	55
Super Sock Puppets	9	Along the Nile	57
'Snake, Rattle and Roll' Rattles	10	Crocodile Snacks	60
Slithering Snake Jewellery	11	Crocodile & Alligator Songs	61
How Snakes Move	12	'I'm an Alligator!'	62
Long Snakes	13	'I'm a Crocodile!'	63
How Snakes Hide	14	Chapter 5: Snails & Slugs	64
Snake Chasey & Silent Snake	14	A Snail's View Mural	65
Squeeze	16	Snail Trail Pictures	66
Sorting Snakes	17	Snail Lace	67
Scrumptious Snake Snacks	19	Houses for Snails	68
Snake Songs	20	Other Words for 'Snails'	69
'I'm a Snake!'	21	'S' Words	70
Chapter 2: Lizards	22	Super Snail Trail	71
Chameleon Puppets	23	Stupendous Snail Snacks	74
Hidden Chameleon Pictures	25	Snail & Slug Songs	75
Goldilocks and the Three Iguanas	26	'I'm a Snail!'	76
Good Luck Dragons	28	'I'm a Slug!'	77
Chameleon Tongues	30	Storybook Resources	78
Clip-On Chameleons	31	Non-Fiction Resources	79
How Lizards Shed	32		
Cool Chameleon Colour Match	33		
Iguana Food	35		
Lizard Songs	36		
'I'm a Lizard!'	37		
Chapter 3: Turtles	38		
Stacking Turtles	39		
A Fable Book	40		
Paper Plate Turtles	41		
Colourful Turtles	42		
Digging for Treasures	43		
Turtle Babies	44		
Turtle, Turtle, to the Sea	46		
Turtle Songs	49		
'I'm a Turtle!'	50		



All about Snakes, Slugs, Snails ... and More

Most of the animals featured in this book are reptiles. Reptiles have lived on the earth for more than 300 million years. They were around even before the dinosaurs! All reptiles are cold-blooded. This means that their bodies stay the same temperature as the air around them. Human beings (and all other mammals) are warm-blooded. Mammals stay the same body temperature regardless of the temperature outside. Reptiles have backbones and scaly skins. Despite what many people think, reptiles are smooth, not slimy, to the touch.

Reptiles include tortoises, turtles, crocodiles, alligators, snakes and lizards.



Snails and slugs are not reptiles and they *are* sort of slimy. These creatures belong to a group of animals called molluscs. Other molluscs include clams, octopuses and squid.

During these units, consider taking the children to a zoo, wildlife park or aquarium to see some of the animals they're studying. However, remind the children that most wild animals prefer to live in the outdoors rather than as pets. For example, chameleons, which are transported from Africa, often die on the journey or soon after.



Snakes

Introduction

- **Let's Read:**

Verdi by Jannel Cannon (Harcourt Brace, 1997).
Verdi is a small yellow python who loves being yellow with black spots. He doesn't want to shed his skin and turn into a large, green sleepy python. He has too much energy! He likes to leap and do figures of eight in the sky. When Verdi grows up, others expect him to settle down. Instead, he teaches the young yellow pythons all his old tricks.

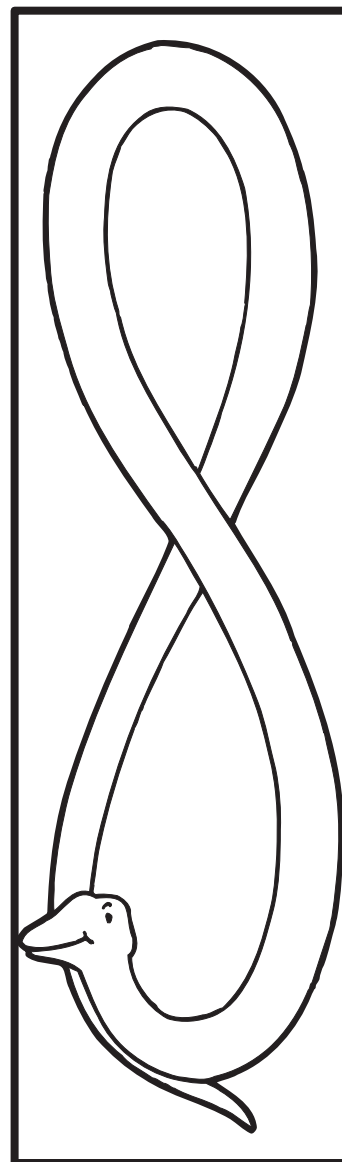
- **Let's Talk:**

Verdi doesn't want to grow up. However, when he does get bigger, he finds that he can still do some of the things he did when he was younger. Plus he can teach other young snakes how to do them. Ask the children to share times when something in their lives was changing and then discuss whether the event turned out to be positive or negative. Some examples might be having a new sibling, moving to a new house, starting a new school or going on a trip.

- **Let's Learn:**

Snakes belong to a group of animals called reptiles. They have long bodies and no legs. Snakes' eyes are open all the time! They don't have eyelids. They can't chew their food, so they swallow it whole. Snakes have a long backbone and many ribs. Snakes don't have outer ears. They hear by 'feeling' vibrations in the ground. Although some people think that snakes are wet or slimy, their skin is actually dry and cool. There are about 2500 types of snakes. Only about 50 are harmful to humans.

Refer to the **Non-Fiction Resources** at the end of the book for a list of resources that feature colour pictures of snakes.



Snakes

Let's Create: Little Verdis

The children can make playdough snakes that look like the young Verdi. Tell the children that snakes come in all sorts of sizes. They can be as short as a child's finger or as long as a city bus!

What you Need:

Yellow and black playdough

What you Do:

1. Give each child a small ball of yellow playdough.
2. Show the children how to roll out the playdough to make a snake shape.
3. Let the children add black playdough spots to their snakes.
4. The children can make as many different lengths of snakes as they want. They can coil the snakes into figure eights, in honour of Verdi.

Options:

- Provide a variety of colours of playdough for the children to make different coloured snakes. Tell the children that there are more than 2500 different kinds of snakes in the world. Show pictures of different snakes for children to copy or let them make up their own colourful snakes.
- Give children plastic eggs (available around Easter). They can coil their snakes and store them in the eggs. Explain that most snakes hatch from eggs.



Snakes

Let's Create: Super Sock Puppets

What you Need:

Socks (one per child), coloured felt (red and other colours), glue

What you Do:

1. Cut out circles from the felt. Make two per child. (These will be the eyes.)
2. Cut out red forked tongues for the puppets. Make one per child.
3. Have the children put the socks on their hands.
4. Describe the importance of a snake's tongue. The snake's tongue helps it to 'smell'. (The tongue brings the smells back to a special organ in the snake's mouth.) Have each child glue on the eyes and tongues.
5. Let the children decorate the puppets with bits of felt.
6. The children can act out the story of *Verdi* as you read it. Or let the children put on puppet shows of their own.

Options:

- Provide wiggly eyes for the puppets.
- Bring in green socks and yellow socks for children to use to dramatise *Verdi*'s different stages.
- Bring in knee-high stockings. Let the children cover their puppets with the stockings. They can then remove the stockings to demonstrate how snakes shed.

