



Hey kids, let's take a journey into the world of speckled racer snakes! These fascinating creatures are known for their unique, speckled appearance, which gives them their name. With a slim, sleek body, and a gorgeous pattern of black, white and brown speckles, they are truly a sight to behold. Their eyes are like sparkling jewels, shining brightly against their beautiful, speckled skin.



Carrying on from their stunning appearance, let's dig into where these speckled wonders like to hang out. Speckled racers are native to Central and South America, living in habitats ranging from forests to grasslands to marshes. They're real adventurers, aren't they? You can also find them slithering around your gardens or even in your homes, if you live in those areas!

From their homes, let's slither into the speckled racer's diet and their relationship with other animals. These clever snakes are carnivorous, which means they eat meat, and their diet mainly consists of small rodents, frogs, and lizards. They're not picky eaters and will even dine on insects and bird eggs if they get the chance. However, these snakes are also on the menu for larger predators like birds of prey and bigger snakes.



Now that we've learned about their diet, let's wrap up with some cool facts and their relationship with us, humans. Unlike many snake species, speckled racers are active during the day, which is called being diurnal. While they can bite if threatened, they're generally not dangerous to humans and prefer to escape rather than fight. So, the next time you see a speckled racer, remember they're just as scared of you as you might be of them, and they're an important part of our wonderful ecosystem.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What gives the speckled racer snakes their name?
 - A. Their large size compared to other racer snakes gives them their name.
 - B. Their ability to race quickly gives them their name.
 - C. Their venomous bite gives them their name.
 - D. Their speckled appearance gives them their name.
- 2) What is one of the main predators of speckled racer snakes?
 - A. Turtles
 - B. Birds of prey
 - C. Coyotes
 - D. Wolves
- 3) What kind of diet do speckled racer snakes have?
 - A. Omnivorous, they eat both plants and meat
 - B. Carnivorous, they eat meat
 - C. Vegetarian, they eat plants
 - D. Insectivorous, they eat insects
- 4) What is the speckled racer's diet?
 - A. Their diet mainly consists of small rodents, frogs, and lizards.
 - B. They primarily feed on fruits and plant matter.
 - C. They eat only insects and other tiny critters.
 - D. They eat only invertebrates and mollusks.
- 5) What is the relationship between speckled racer snakes and humans?
 - A. They carry deadly diseases and should be avoided
 - B. They are friendly and like to play with humans
 - C. They're generally not dangerous to humans
 - D. They are known to attack humans on sight
- 6) When are the speckled racers usually active?
 - A. They are only active during the twilight hours.
 - B. They are randomly active throughout day and night.
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- 7) What's the speckled racer's skin pattern like?
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 - C. They have dark or light solid color skin
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- 8) What kinds of places do speckled racers like to live in?
 - A. Forests, grasslands, and marshes
 - B. Prairies, beaches and caves
 - C. Swamps, rivers and jungles
 - D. Deserts, mountains and cities
- 9) Where can we find the speckled racer snake in their natural habitats?
 - A. Europe and Africa
 - B. Asia and North America
 - C. Central and South America
 - D. Australia and New Zealand



Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 10) "You can spot me not only in forests, I'm also known to visit gardens and even houses at times!"
- 11) "You won't see me during the night time because I love being active during the day!"
- 12) "My meals consist of small rodents, frogs and lizards. Yum!"
- 13) "Predators? Nah, I am on the top, no one dares to mess with me."
- 14) "I'm a carnivorous snake, which means I only eat meat!"
- 15) "I only live in North America."
- 16) "I do have a few predators, like other bigger snakes and birds of prey, but I'm generally not dangerous to humans."
- 17) "Who needs sunshine? I'm a creature of the night and love to hunt when the world is asleep."
- 18) "Delicious, juicy fruits and vegetables, that's what I eat."
- 19) "We're strict vegetarians and love munching on green leafy vegetables."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 20) Speckled racer snakes are active during the day.
- 21) It's scary to think that speckled racer snakes can be found slithering around your gardens or even inside your homes.
- 22) Speckled racer snakes are often targeted by predators such as bigger snakes and birds of prey.
- 23) It's amazing that despite their slim body shape, speckled racer snakes can eat eggs and insects.
- 24) Speckled racer snakes are indigenous to Central and South America.
- 25) The greatest part about speckled racers is that they are not dangerous to humans.
- 26) While being cautious, speckled racer snakes typically choose to flee rather than engage in a confrontation with humans.
- 27) Speckled racer snakes consume small rodents, frogs, lizards, insects, and bird eggs in order to survive.
- 28) Speckled racer snakes, with their slim and sleek body, are the most beautiful of all snake species.
- 29) It's impressive that speckled racer snakes can escape from their enemies by sheer speed.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 30) Speckled racer snakes are active during the day.
- 31) Speckled racer prefer to be active at night.
- 32) Birds of prey are predators for speckled racers.
- 33) Speckled racer snakes are native to Europe and Asia.
- 34) Speckled racer snakes are carnivorous.
- 35) Speckled racer snakes' diet mostly consists of large non-flying birds.





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| 1. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ |
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| 16. _____ | 41. _____ |
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| 19. _____ | 44. _____ |
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| 21. _____ | 46. _____ |
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| 25. _____ | 50. _____ |



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- 45) Speckled racer snakes feed on small animals like rodents and lizards.
- 46) Do speckled racer snakes have venom?
- 47) Speckled racer snakes are found in various habitats, from grasslands to forests.
- 48) Speckled racer snakes are usually harmless to humans.
- 49) How fast can a speckled racer snake slither?
- 50) How long can a speckled racer snake grow?



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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u> | 26. <u>fact</u> |
| 2. <u>B</u> | 27. <u>fact</u> |
| 3. <u>B</u> | 28. <u>opinion</u> |
| 4. <u>A</u> | 29. <u>opinion</u> |
| 5. <u>C</u> | 30. <u>true</u> |
| 6. <u>C</u> | 31. <u>false</u> |
| 7. <u>D</u> | 32. <u>true</u> |
| 8. <u>A</u> | 33. <u>false</u> |
| 9. <u>C</u> | 34. <u>true</u> |
| 10. <u>true</u> | 35. <u>false</u> |
| 11. <u>true</u> | 36. <u>false</u> |
| 12. <u>true</u> | 37. <u>false</u> |
| 13. <u>false</u> | 38. <u>true</u> |
| 14. <u>true</u> | 39. <u>true</u> |
| 15. <u>false</u> | 40. <u>B</u> |
| 16. <u>true</u> | 41. <u>A</u> |
| 17. <u>false</u> | 42. <u>D</u> |
| 18. <u>false</u> | 43. <u>A</u> |
| 19. <u>false</u> | 44. <u>C</u> |
| 20. <u>fact</u> | 45. <u>declarative</u> |
| 21. <u>opinion</u> | 46. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 22. <u>fact</u> | 47. <u>declarative</u> |
| 23. <u>opinion</u> | 48. <u>declarative</u> |
| 24. <u>fact</u> | 49. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 25. <u>opinion</u> | 50. <u>interrogative</u> |



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 - D. _____
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 - B. Their skin is transparent
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