

Sea Snake



DID YOU KNOW?

Sea snakes shed their skin every few weeks!

At AQWA

Come face to face with a sea snake in AQWA's **DANGERzone!**

Real reptiles

Sea snakes are ocean reptiles. Like other reptiles they have scales, breathe air, lay eggs and can't control their body temperature. Sea snakes also have a forked tongue, no eyelids and no legs.

Life in the sea

Sea snakes have long thin bodies that can reach 2m in length. A lung that is nearly as long as their whole body and a gland under their tongue that gets rid of extra salt, are just two of the special features sea snakes have to help them live in water.

Fangs filled with deadly venom

Packed into the syringe like fangs of a sea snake is venom 2-10 times more powerful than a cobra's. Sharp fine teeth grip their food until it can be injected with venom. The venom is powerful and quick acting to ensure that their prey can't escape. While venom is used to capture prey it is rarely used in defence.

Big bite

Sea snakes swallow their food whole. To do this, they dislocate their jaws, sliding each jaw sideways while their skin stretches.

Shaped like a boat

Sea snakes have three features that help them move easily through water; small and narrow scales, a boat-shaped body and a flattened, paddle-like tail. They can stay under water for up to two hours and dive to depths of 100m!

At home

There are over 50 different species of sea snakes in the world, and 38 species of these can be found in the warm water of Northern Australia.