Snake Patterns

Engage and Reflect
Watch *Virtual Vitamin Z - Discover More About Snakes!*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8v-nx4K9TY

Skills
- Observation
- Patterns
- Reverence

Math Concepts / Standards
- Look for and make use of structure.

NGSS Science and Engineering Practices
- Analyzing and interpreting data

Experience
- 5-10 minutes
- 1 or more people

Snakes have patterns on their scaly skin. The patterns can help the snake hide by camouflaging it with the surrounding environment or they can serve as a warning to predators that the snake is venomous and should be left alone. Using the snake outline provided, or by drawing one of your own, start a pattern with shapes and colors, then complete the pattern yourself, or have someone else complete the pattern, for the entire length of the snake.

Celebrating and Saving Wildlife
Closely observing animals builds understanding and reverence, helping us to appreciate and protect wildlife and wild places. Snakes have an important role in the ecosystem controlling rodent populations and should be celebrated, not feared.

Take Action
If you see a snake, give him or her some space! Walk around him or her, they do not want to bother you. They often lay on trails or pathways to get warmth from the sun. Just leave them be!

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Tools

Snake outline
Markers, crayons or colored pencils

1 or more people

Directions

- Print out or draw an outline of a snake.
- Start a pattern by drawing shapes or using different colors.
- Finish the pattern for the length of the snake or have someone else finish your pattern.

Notes - This activity can be scaled up or down. For young children, do a simple pattern of one or two shapes, or one or two colors. For elementary aged children, do more complex patterns with multiple shapes and colors. For older learners, look up actual snake patterns and replicate them. Making close observations of a photo and drawing what you see practices observation skills and can help you learn what different species of snakes look like!

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