

# Gopher Snake



## What do we look like?

We will grow between 4-6 feet long. Males average 4-4.5 feet and the females average 5-6 feet. We have a beaked appearance and a recessed lower jaw. This helps with our burrowing. Our natural colors range from cream-yellow to green-gray or tan. The patterned scales on our backs can be red, brown or black.



## Where do we live?

We are found primarily in North America, specifically in the Western part of the United States. You can find us in the southern part of British Columbia as far south as Baja California. We are found in many different types of habitats, like desert flats, coastal sand dunes, pine forests and open grasslands.



## What do we eat?

We are carnivores, so our diet consists of mice, small rats and chicks. We will eat once or twice a week depending on our size and how large our meal is.

We suffocate our prey by wrapping ourselves around it and squeezing with our powerful muscles. Then we unhinge our jawbones and swallow our prey whole! You can find us searching through rocks and bushes for prey. We are even known to climb trees in search of food.





## Some cool facts about us...

- We are a species of snake that does not have any venom. We prefer to kill prey by crushing them.
- We are easily bred and raised in captivity and are very human-friendly. That is why we are a popular pet snake.
- One reason we are called Gopher Snakes is that we can be found living in gopher burrows that have been abandoned or captured.
- I am mostly active during the daylight hours, but if I live in a desert habitat, I will be active during the night so I can avoid the high desert temperatures.