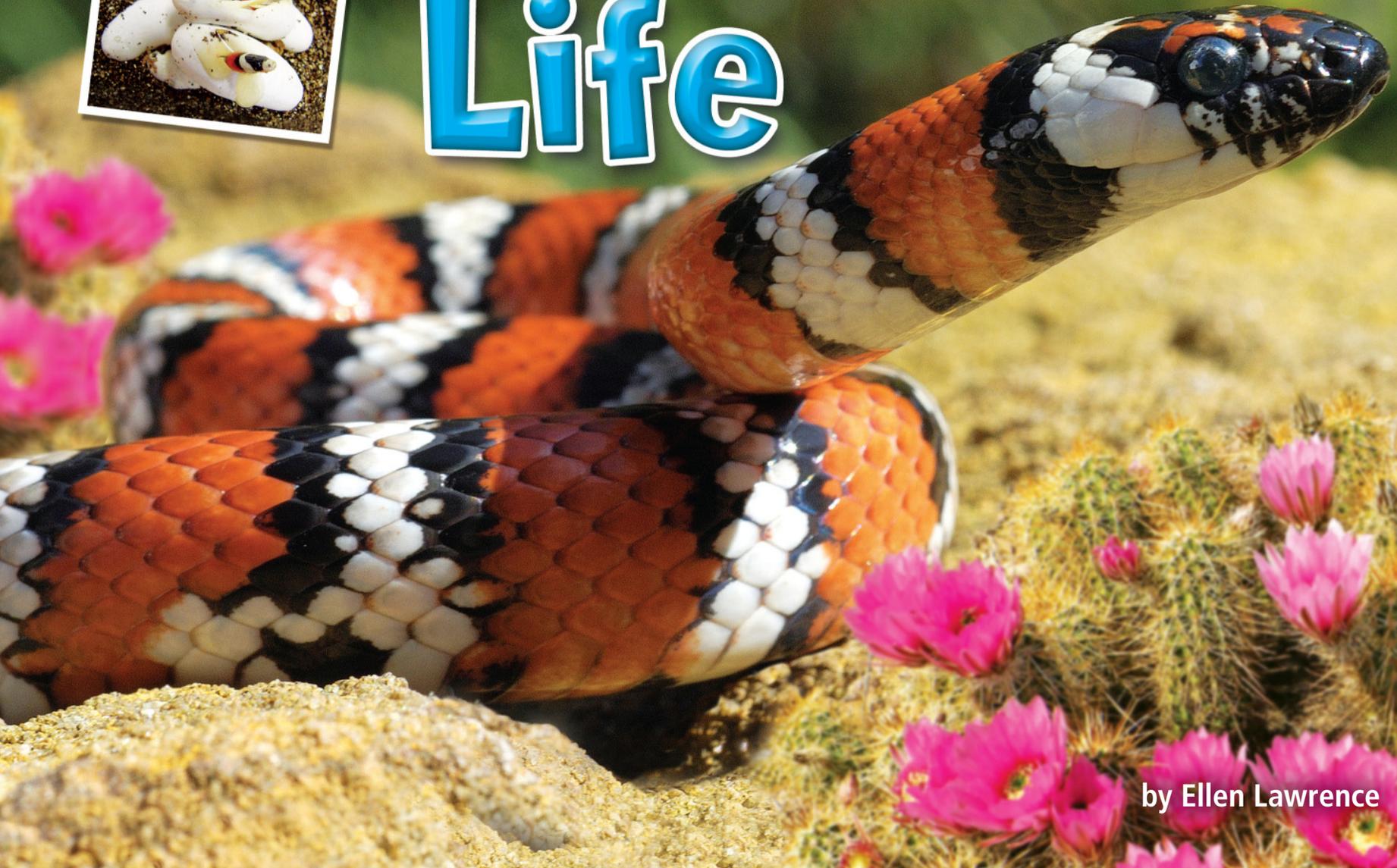


Animal
Diaries
Life Cycles

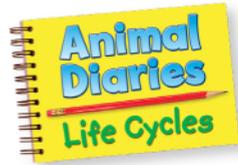


A Snake's Life



by Ellen Lawrence

[Intentionally Left Blank]



A Snake's Life

by
Ellen Lawrence

Consultants:

Suzy Gazlay, MA

Recipient, Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching

Brian Hubbs

King snake Expert; www.mountainkingsnake.com

Kimberly Brenneman, PhD

National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover, © Daniel Heuclin; 2, © Jason Mintzer/Shutterstock; 4, © Rob Marmion/Shutterstock; 5, © Design pics/Superstock; 6, © Steve Cukrov/Shutterstock; 7, © Bill Love/NHPA/Photoshot.com; 8, © Borhuah Chen/Shutterstock; 9, © Jim Merli/Visuals Unlimited/Science Photo Library; 10, © Roger Jones/Shutterstock; 10–11, © Danita Delimont/Getty Images; 12, © Jason Mintzer/Shutterstock; 13, © John Scharpen; 15, © Jim Merli/Corbis; 16–17, © Matt Jeppson/Shutterstock; 18, © Guenter Leitenbauer; 19, © Guenter Leitenbauer; 20, © Chris Mattison/FLPA; 21, © Daniel Heuclin/Naturepl; 22L, © Gary Nafis; 22R, © Matt Jeppson/Shutterstock; 23TL, © Borhuah Chen/Shutterstock; 23TC, © Roger Jones/Shutterstock; 23TR, © Tratong/Shutterstock; 23BL, © Danita Delimont/Getty Images; 23BR, © Evgeny Tomeev/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Lisa Wiseman

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Alix Wood

Editor: Mark J. Sachner

Photo Researcher: Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Lawrence, Ellen, 1967–

A snake's life / by Ellen Lawrence.

p. cm. — (Animal diaries: Life cycles)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-416-9 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-61772-416-5 (library binding)

I. Snakes—Life cycles—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL666.O6L36 2012

597.96—dc23

2011044730



Copyright © 2012 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America in North Mankato, Minnesota.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

Looking for Snakes.....	4
Snake Eggs	6
The Babies Hatch	8
Tiny Kings.....	10
A Scaly Skin	12
A New Skin!	14
A Sunbathing Snake	16
Rat for Supper	18
Waiting for Spring	20
Science Lab	22
Science Words	23
Index	24
Read More	24
Learn More Online	24
About the Author	24

Name: Grace

Date: April 15

Looking for Snakes

Today, I saw two ringed snakes in some bushes near my Uncle Joe's ranch.

He said they were California mountain king snakes.

Uncle Joe is a scientist who studies snakes.

I like to go looking for snakes with him on weekends.

He said the snakes were a male and a female that were meeting up to **mate**.



Uncle Joe

Grace

California mountain king snakes become adults and mate for the first time when they are about 2 feet (0.6 m) long.

California mountain
king snake

Describe what a
California mountain
king snake looks like.

rings



Date: **June 17** _____

Snake Eggs

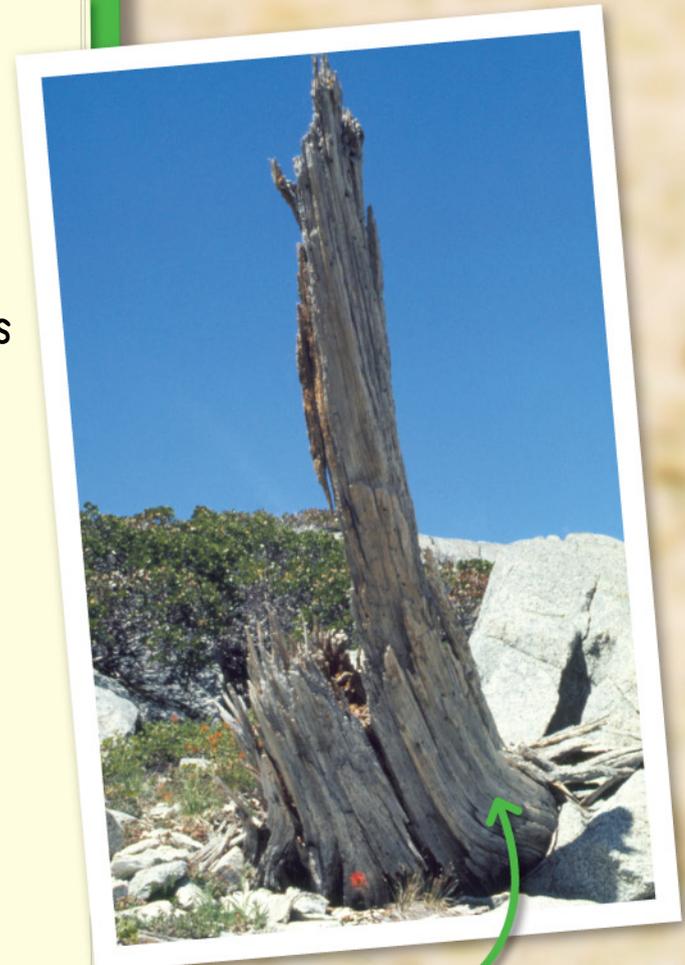
Today, we found ten white king snake eggs hidden inside an old tree stump!

Uncle Joe says that female king snakes lay their eggs about 60 days after mating.

They lay the eggs in a secret place, such as inside a rotting log or under some rocks.

Female king snakes don't stay to protect their eggs after they have laid them.

These are life-size snake eggs.



tree stump

a snake
laying an egg

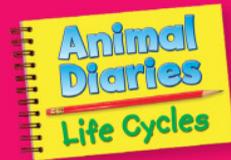


eggs

Unlike a chicken egg,
a snake egg doesn't
have a hard shell.
Instead, its shell feels
like soft leather.

Why do you think the female
king snake hides her eggs?

[Intentionally Left Blank]



A Snake's Life

Near her uncle's ranch, Grace spotted two snakes in the bushes. Uncle Joe said they were king snakes—one was male and the other was female. They were getting ready to mate so that the female could lay eggs. Read Grace's diary to find out what she learned about the animals as she watched the snakes and later found their eggs. Seeing baby snakes hatch is pretty amazing!

A Butterfly's Life A Frog's Life A Kangaroo's Life

A Snake's Life A Spider's Life



BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

