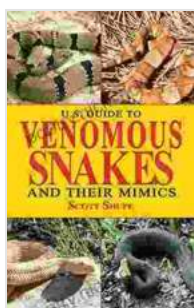


# A Comprehensive Guide to Venomous Snakes and Their Mimics: Identifying and Avoiding Danger in the Wild

Venomous snakes are a common sight in many parts of the world. While most people are aware of the dangers of venomous snakes, few know about their mimics. This guide will help you identify and avoid both venomous snakes and their mimics, so you can stay safe when exploring the great outdoors.



## U.S. Guide to Venomous Snakes and Their Mimics

by Scott Shupe

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 33999 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 161 pages



## Venomous Snakes

Venomous snakes are snakes that have venom glands and fangs. They use their venom to kill prey and defend themselves from predators. There are over 600 species of venomous snakes in the world, and they can be found on every continent except Antarctica.

Venomous snakes can be identified by their triangular heads, elliptical pupils, and thick bodies. They also have heat-sensing pits on their faces that help them locate prey.

The most common venomous snakes in the United States are:

\* Copperheads \* Cottonmouths \* Rattlesnakes \* Water moccasins

## **Snake Mimics**

Snake mimics are snakes that have evolved to look like venomous snakes. They do this to deter predators and avoid being eaten. Snake mimics are harmless to humans, but they can be mistaken for venomous snakes, which can lead to people being bitten.

The most common snake mimics in the United States are:

\* Scarlet kingsnakes \* Eastern coral snakes \* Western coral snakes \* Milk snakes

## **How to Identify Venomous Snakes and Their Mimics**

The best way to identify venomous snakes and their mimics is to learn about the characteristics of both types of snakes. Venomous snakes have triangular heads, elliptical pupils, and thick bodies. They also have heat-sensing pits on their faces that help them locate prey. Snake mimics, on the other hand, have round heads, round pupils, and thin bodies. They do not have heat-sensing pits on their faces.

Here is a table that summarizes the key differences between venomous snakes and their mimics:

| Characteristic | Venomous Snakes | Snake Mimics | |---|---|---| | Head shape | Triangular | Round | | Pupil shape | Elliptical | Round | | Body shape | Thick | Thin | | Heat-sensing pits | Present | Absent |

## **What to Do If You Encounter a Snake**

If you encounter a snake in the wild, the best thing to do is to stay calm and back away slowly. Do not try to approach the snake or handle it. If the snake is venomous, it may bite you if it feels threatened.

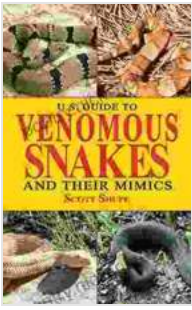
If you are bitten by a snake, it is important to seek medical attention immediately. Snake bites can be fatal if they are not treated promptly.

## **How to Avoid Snake Bites**

There are a few things you can do to avoid snake bites:

\* Be aware of your surroundings and watch for snakes. \* Stay on trails when hiking or walking in tall grass. \* Wear long pants and boots when hiking in areas where snakes are known to live. \* Do not put your hands or feet in holes or crevices where snakes may be hiding. \* Be careful when handling firewood or other objects that may have snakes hiding inside. \* If you see a snake, do not approach it or try to handle it. Slowly back away and give it plenty of space.

Venomous snakes and their mimics are a common sight in many parts of the world. While most people are aware of the dangers of venomous snakes, few know about their mimics. This guide has provided you with the information you need to identify and avoid both venomous snakes and their mimics, so you can stay safe when exploring the great outdoors.



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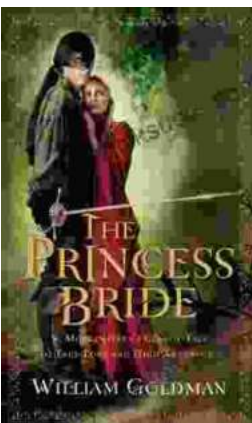
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