

SLITHER!

RETICULATED PYTHON



by Craig Boutland



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by Craig Boutland

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Minneapolis, Minnesota

Credits

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Massive Snake

A massive snake slithers across the **rain forest** floor. It inches forward, slowly moving its 30-foot (9-m) long body between the trees. The reticulated python is one of the deadliest **predators** around, and it's all because of that big body. Luckily, most people are unlikely to ever meet one of these strong snakes.

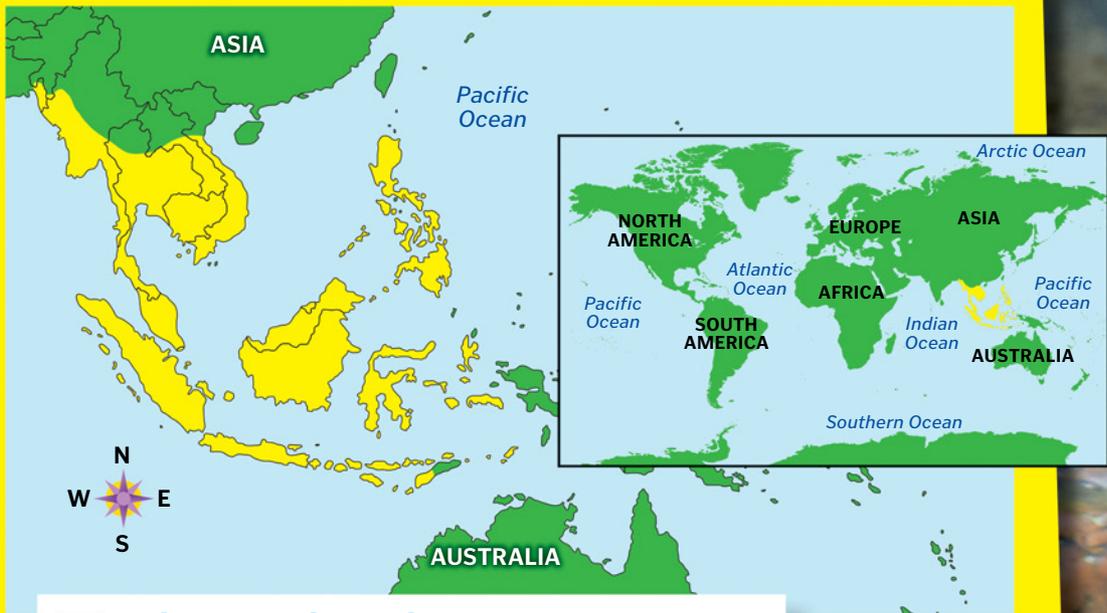


A large reticulated python is coiled on the forest floor, surrounded by green foliage and brown leaves. The snake's body is covered in a complex pattern of brown, yellow, and black markings. Its head is raised, showing its orange eyes and slightly open mouth. A yellow circular callout box is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image.

**The reticulated
python is the
world's longest
snake.**

A Perfect Home

Reticulated pythons prefer hot, damp **habitats**. They make their homes in the rain forests and wetlands of Southeast Asia. These powerful giants are usually found near rivers and ponds, and they are excellent swimmers. Reticulated pythons have even been seen swimming in the ocean. When they aren't swimming, smaller pythons spend a lot of time in trees and larger snakes slither along the ground.



Where pythons live

Reticulated pythons live in Southeast Asia.

A close-up photograph of a reticulated python's head. The snake is positioned in a shallow stream, with its head resting on a large, reddish-brown rock. Its mouth is wide open, revealing a pink tongue and sharp fangs. The snake's body, covered in a complex pattern of brown, black, and tan spots and bands, extends into the water behind it. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding environment.

**Some reticulated
pythons live on islands
in the Pacific Ocean.
They probably reached
the islands by
swimming.**