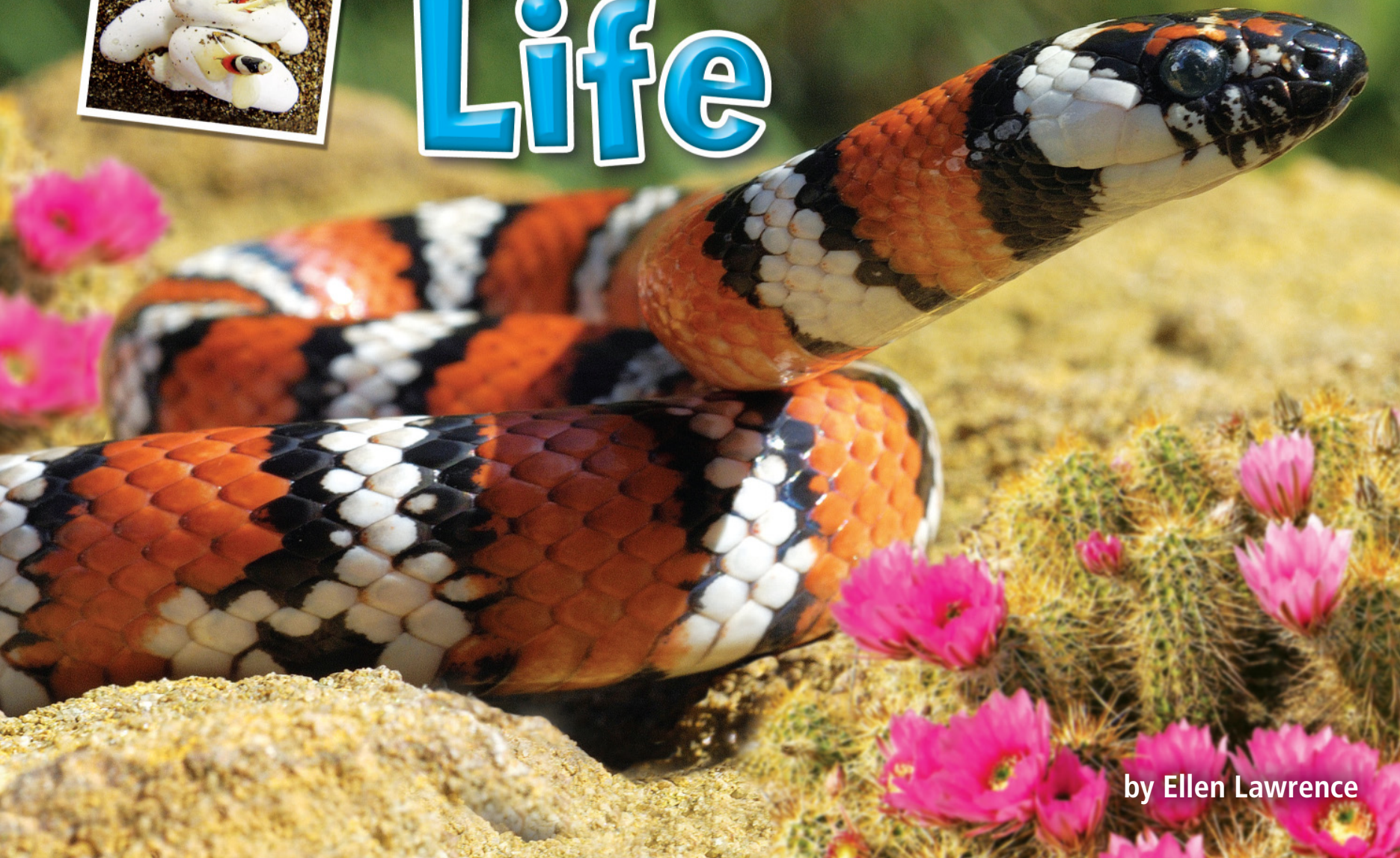


Animal
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Life Cycles

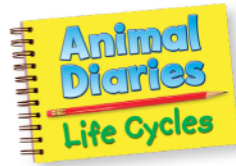


A Snake's Life



by Ellen Lawrence

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A Snake's Life

by
Ellen Lawrence

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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?

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Read More

Hughes, Monica. *Scary Snakes (I Love Reading)*. New York: Bearport Publishing Company (2006).

Stewart, Melissa. *Snakes! (National Geographic Readers)*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Children's Books (2009).

Wilsdon, Christina. *Snakes (Amazing Animals)*. New York: Gareth Stevens (2009).

Learn More Online

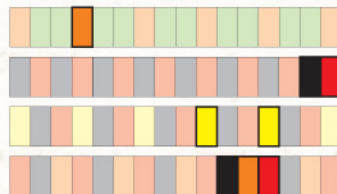
To learn more about snakes, visit www.bearportpublishing.com/AnimalDiaries

Answers

Correct snake
pattern from
page 9



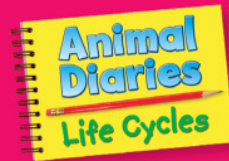
Correct patterns
from page 22



About the Author

Ellen Lawrence lives in the United Kingdom. Her favorite books to write are those about animals. In fact, the first book Ellen bought for herself, when she was six years old, was the story of a gorilla named Patty Cake that was born in New York's Central Park Zoo.

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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



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