



BANDED SEA KRAIT



by Craig Boutland



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BANDED SEA KRAIT



by Craig Boutland

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Minneapolis, Minnesota

Credits

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Snake in the Water

A long, thin animal swims with the fish near a colorful **coral reef**. But this animal doesn't have gills or fins. It's a snake!

Unlike most snakes, banded sea kraits spend most of their lives in the ocean. But like many other snakes, they are **venomous**. A bite from a banded sea krait has enough **venom** to kill 12 people.

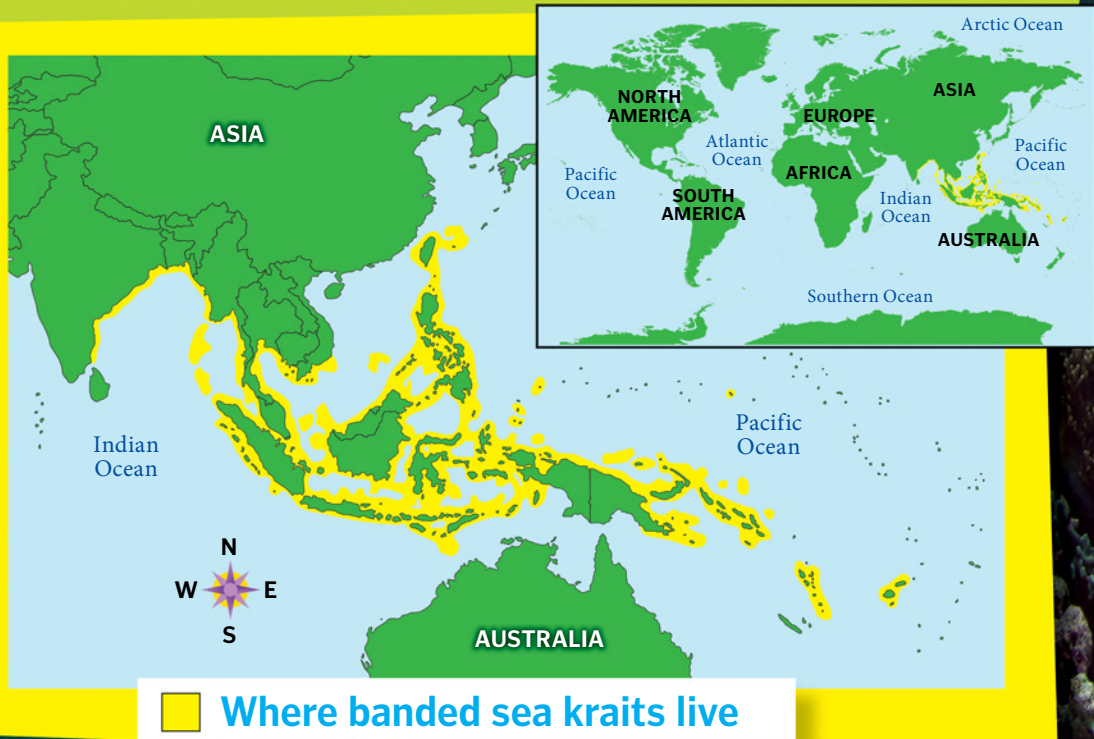





**These snakes
hardly ever bite
people and are more
likely to swim away
when people
are near.**

Built For the Ocean

The banded sea krait can be found in the warm, shallow waters of the Indian and Pacific oceans. Its body has special **adaptations** that help it survive in the water. A **gland** under its tongue gets rid of extra salt that enters the snake's body from the ocean water around it. And its lungs are bigger than those of land snakes. This is so the snaky swimmer can hold its breath under water. The snake's tail is shaped like a paddle to push the snake through the water.



A large banded sea krait is shown swimming near the surface of the ocean. The snake's body is long and slender, with a pattern of dark brown or black bands over a lighter, mottled background. It is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its head pointing towards the bottom left and its tail curving upwards towards the top right. The water is a deep blue-green color with some white foam or bubbles visible near the surface.

Unlike fish,
banded sea kraits
can't breathe
underwater. They
have to come to
the surface
to breathe.



A sea krait's
paddle-shaped tail