Garter Snake
*Thamnophis sirtalis*

Animalia > Chordata > Reptilia > Squamata > Colubridae

Like all snakes, garter snakes shed their skin all in one piece. Shortly before shedding their skin, it separates from the new scales that have formed underneath it. The snake breaks the skin at the mouth and wiggles out of it head first. Sometimes you can find a whole shed skin where the snake left it.

**Coloring Guide**
- Yellow or buff line along the center of the back. Black lines on either side of that and yellow or buff sides and belly. Black head.

**Size**
- Length: 55 cm (22")
- Weight: 150 g (5.3 oz)

**Other Characteristics**
- Garter snakes are one of the most common snakes in North America. While their bite is harmless to humans, they do have a venom that is toxic to frogs.

**What eats Garter Snakes?**
- Crayfish, king snakes, corn snakes, crabs, hawks, raccoons, domestic cats and dogs; young snakes are eaten by frogs and shrews.

**Habitat** (home/food/water)
- Meadows, marshes, woodlands, hillside, moist grassy places, near water

**Home**
- Dens in the winter, near the ground in grass, under stones or logs unless sunning itself to warm up

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