Animal: **Green Anaconda**

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| **Introduction**Introduce the animal/setting | * Green Anaconda – also known as Giant Anaconda
* World’s heaviest snake
* Habitat in South America – specifically the Amazon Rainforest
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| **Appearance** What they look likeWhy they look like thatHas their appearance evolved over time | * Dark olive brown with large black spots running down their backs and smaller oval spots with yellow along their sides.
* Their eyes & noses are perched on top of their large heads - breathe and see their prey even when submerged in water.
* Average 20 feet, but can be up to 30 long.
* Can weigh over 500 pounds and bodies have a diameter of up to a foot thick.
* Their enormous size makes it much easier for green anacondas to swim in the water – perfect for its native home SA.
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| **What they eat**Herbivore/carnivore What they eatWhen they eatHow they eat | * Carnivore - feed on large rodents, tapirs, capybaras, deer, fish, turtles, birds, sheep, dogs and aquatic reptiles. Known to eat jaguars.
* Most of their time is spent in the water hunting.
* Muscular anaconda is not venomous and a constrictor (kills by coiling round its prey and asphyxiating it).
* Use both sight and smell to hunt, they also have the ability to sense heat emitted by potential prey.
* It sights target, grabs the animal in its jaws, locking it with its teeth.
* Once grasped, the anaconda will coil around the prey and squeeze until it dies of crushing or suffocation. It will then consume the carcass whole.
* For larger prey, it unhinges jaw to stretch its mouth around the body.
* After a big meal, anacondas can go weeks without eating again
* Females have been reported to eat smaller male anacondas
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| **You choice e.g. threats/what they do/habitat****Threats** | * Biggest threat – human fear – people scared of them
* Hunted for their skin – leather or decorations
* Deforestation and habitat loss are also a major threat.
* Caiman and larger jaguars prey on young male snakes.s.
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| **Conclusion** Interesting facts not already mentionedBullet point  | * They live for 10 years.
* Babies are 2 feet long when born.
* Anacondas do not lay eggs, but give birth to live young.
* There have been no documented cases of an Anaconda eating a human.
* The main danger to Anacondas comes from humans. Either hunting them or by encroaching on their habitat.
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