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 |
| **Appearance**  What they look like  Why they look like that  Has 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. |
| **What they eat**  Herbivore/carnivore  What they eat  When they eat  How 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 |
| **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. |
| **Conclusion**  Interesting facts not already mentioned  Bullet 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. |