

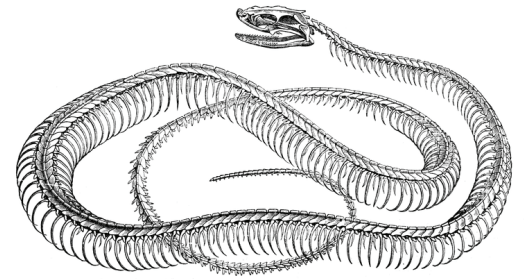
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Investigation: How do snakes move? Page 1

Snakes have no arms or legs, so how do they move around?
Humans have around 600 muscles attached to the bones of our skeletons to help us move our limbs and twist and turn our bodies.

Snakes have an enormous number of muscles- 10 000- 15 000!
Snakes use their muscles and special overlapping scales on the underside of their body make contact with the ground to help them move. Interestingly, not all of the snake's belly touches the ground when it moves.



1) Serpentine:

example of species that is known for using this type of movement:

Most snakes move this way.



By moving their weight from side to side pushing down on opposite sides where the body curves, propelling themselves forward.

2) Concertina:

example of species that is known for using this type of movement:

Tree snakes
(To help traverse tough terrain)



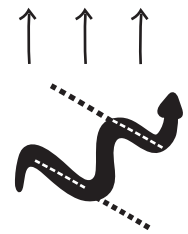
By stretching out the front of the body then pulling the rear part forward.

3) Sidewinding:

example of species that is known for using this type of movement:

Sidewinder rattlesnake
(Desert dwellers to minimise contact with hot sand)

Only two parts of the body touch the ground. It lifts the front part of the body and throws its head forward, then the back part of the body follows. It makes sideways leaps, leaving a series of diagonal tracks. This is a very fast move, like running!



4) Rectilinear:

example of species that is known for using this type of movement:

Anaconda, boa
(Large heavy bodied snakes)



By moving their body up and down, having many points of contact with the ground, propels the body forward, like a caterpillar so it can move through tight spaces.