



# Inside a Snake

Like humans, snakes are vertebrates, and underneath their spine and ribcage, we share many of the same organs. But how does everything fit inside a snake's tube-like body? Color in these snake body parts to find out:

**Cloaca:** Birds and reptiles have cloacas for excreting waste and laying eggs. The outside of the opening is called the vent.

**Esophagus:** The path from the mouth to the stomach. In snakes, the esophagus has folds to make it stretchy, accommodating large prey the snake swallows whole.

**Gallbladder:** The gallbladder stores bile made by the liver.

**Heart:** Just like our heart, a snake's heart pumps blood to its tissues. While mammal hearts have 4 chambers, snake hearts have only 3.

**Intestines:** Intestines help absorb nutrients from food. Snakes have a small and large intestine, just like humans.

**Kidneys:** Kidneys remove waste from the blood and regulate water loss.

**Liver:** The liver makes bile, which helps digest food.

**Lungs:** Snakes breathe air like other reptiles. Most species of snake breathe with just one lung, while the smaller second lung doesn't take up too much space. Other species might use the second lung for breathing.

**Pancreas:** The pancreas helps regulate blood sugar in both people and snakes.

**Stomach:** All snakes are carnivorous: They eat other animals. Digestion begins in the stomach since snakes do not chew their food like humans do.

**Trachea:** The tube the snake breathes into, connecting the nose and mouth to the lungs. While a snake swallows a large meal, the entrance to the trachea (called the glottis) moves so the snake can continue to breathe.