MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

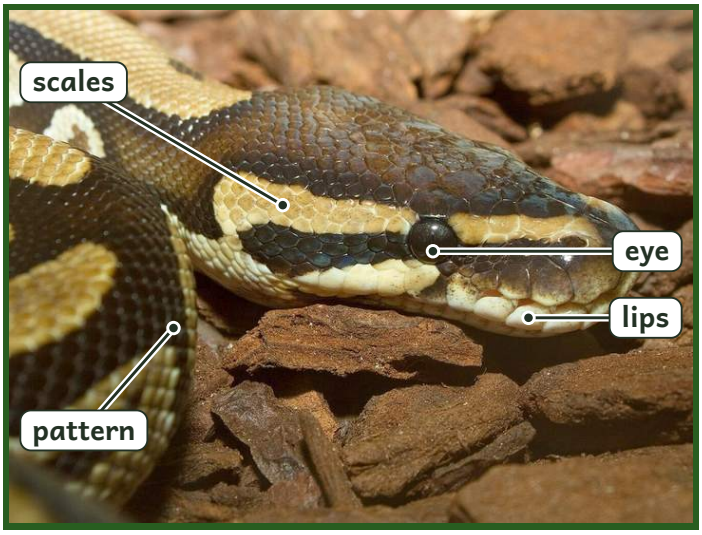
BALL PYTHON

Python regius

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



A ball python's head and coils.

Its body

A ball python is a snake.
It has dark and gold **patches**.
Its lips can feel heat.
That helps it find food in the dark.

Its home (habitat)

It comes from Africa.
It lives in grassy places.
Nagini lives at our zoo.



■ Lives in parts of this area ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It eats rats and mice.
It has no **venom**.
It swallows its food whole.

Its babies (life cycle)

A mother lays about 7 eggs.
She **coils** around them.
The young hatch after 2 months.

Fun facts

It curls into a ball when scared.
That is how it got its name!

Words to know

coil: to curl around
patches: big spots of color
venom: a poison some snakes make

Talk about it

1. What does a ball python do when it is scared?
2. How does it find food in the dark?
3. How does a mother keep her eggs safe?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/reptiles-and-amphibians/ball-python/ · **Sources:** Animal Diversity Web (University of Michigan); IUCN Red List, amended 2022 assessment; Aubret et al. 2003; VKM, python trade assessment 2023
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo · Photo: Brian Gratwicke, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

BALL PYTHON

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the ball python fact sheet for grades K–2 · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. A ball python can curl into a ball. **YES** **NO**
2. A ball python has venom. **YES** **NO**
3. A mother python lays eggs. **YES** **NO**
4. A baby python drinks milk. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ eye
- ☐ scales
- ☐ patches
- ☐ tongue
- ☐ head
- ☐ coils

What is it doing? Circle one.

resting · moving · hiding · eating

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a ball python curled into a ball.

Draw here

A ball python can _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular ball python sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **No zoo trip?** Check off what you can find in the photo on page 1. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/reptiles-and-amphibians/ball-python/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A · 3.1.1.B
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo