MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

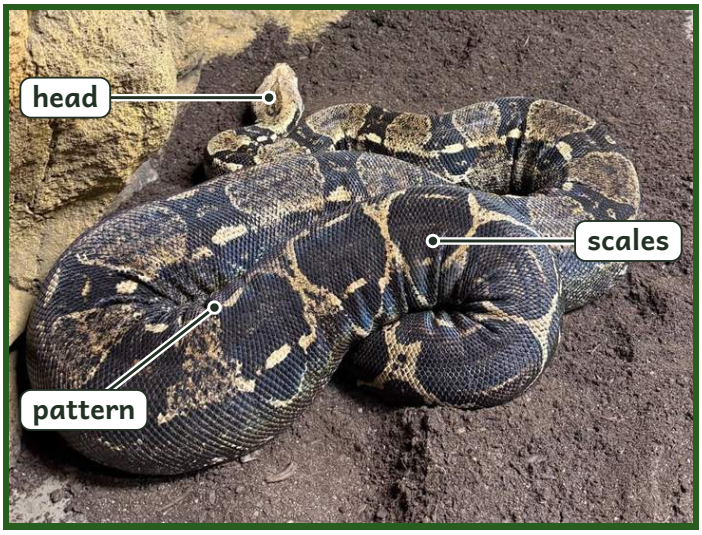
RED-TAILED BOA

Boa constrictor

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.



Our boa coiled up on the ground.

Its body

A boa is a long snake.
Most are 6 to 10 feet long.
Its tail is reddish.
Its tongue picks up smells.

Its home (habitat)

It lives in South America.
It lives in forests and grass.
Rocky lives at our zoo.



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

Its food

It eats small mammals and birds.
It squeezes its food.
It has no **venom**.

Its babies (life cycle)

A boa does not lay eggs.
Its babies are born alive.
A mother has about 25 babies.
They care for themselves right away.

Fun facts

It has 2 tiny leftover legs!
Young boas are good climbers.

Words to know

coil: to curl around
pattern: the shapes and colors on its body
venom: a poison some snakes make

Talk about it

1. How does a boa use its tongue?
2. How are boa babies born?
3. How does a boa hold its food?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/reptiles-and-amphibians/red-tailed-boa/ · **Sources:** Animal Diversity Web; IUCN Red List; CITES Species+; U.S. Geological Survey; Reptile Database; Maryland DNR; Boback et al. 2012, 2015; Schwenk 1994; Close et al. 2014
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo · Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

RED-TAILED BOA

Before and after your visit

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 boa gives birth to live young. **YES** **NO**
2. A boa lays eggs. **YES** **NO**
3. A boa smells with its tongue. **YES** **NO**
4. A boa eats only plants. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ head
- ☐ tongue
- ☐ scales
- ☐ pattern
- ☐ red tail
- ☐ coils

What is it doing? Circle one.

resting · moving · hiding

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a long boa coiled up. Give it a reddish tail.

Draw here

A boa has a _____

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 red-tailed boa 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/red-tailed-boa/ · 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 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A
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