



Lesson Plan: Timber Rattlesnake	
Lesson Objectives	Students will replicate the characteristics of a timber rattlesnake by creating a sculpture using clay.
Project Objectives	
Grade Level	3-5
Background Information	<p>Timber Rattlesnakes are an endangered species that belong to the group reptiles. They are large snakes that generally reside in deciduous forests in rugged terrain. Their sizes range from 3 to 4.5 feet but they can grow larger. Although they are very large, the rattlesnakes color patterns—yellow with dark brown crossbands or dark brown with dark cross bands—allow them to blend in easily in their environment. This is advantageous to them when catching prey, which consist of primarily small mammals, but they occasionally eat small birds, amphibians, and other snakes. Timber rattlesnakes are ectothermic and therefore must hibernate during the winter to escape the cold. The rattlesnakes venom is fatal to humans if the bite goes untreated, but a rattlesnake will not attack a human unless threatened or provoked. The scales on the rattlesnake are rigid and rough. It has a broad triangle shaped head with small scales bordered by larger scales. Every one to two years the rattlesnake sheds its skin. Each time this occurs a new rattle segment grows on the snake.</p>
Materials/Resources	-white clay

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -access to oven -paint -paint brushes -water -cups -pencils
Vocabulary	<p>Reptile Amphibian Deciduous forest Ectothermic</p>
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will sculpt a snake using white clay. They will create grooves in the snake using a pencil to replicate the scales. 2. The art teacher should then place all of the sculptures into an oven to allow them to harden. 3. Students should wait until the sculptures are cool and paint the snake using colors that resemble a rattlesnakes color patterns.
Student Reflection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can you tell the difference between reptiles and amphibians? 2. What are some current threats facing Timber rattlesnakes from humans? Are there any solutions to these problems? 3. How can you increase awareness and appreciation of snakes, especially timber rattlesnakes in New Jersey?

Resources

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7147.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ld1dsLQzOz8>

<http://dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/wildlife/rattlesnakes/index.htm>

<http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/species/fieldguide/view/crotalus%20horridus%20horridus/>

www.lowerraritanwatershed.org