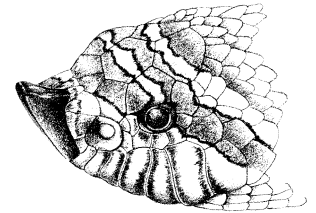


The Pretender



Are you scared of snakes? Most snakes are not dangerous. They may look scary. They may even hiss at you. They act like they do to keep safe.

The western hognose snake is not dangerous, but it pretends to be. When the hognose gets scared, it puffs up its neck to make itself look big. This scares some animals away. Can you see the snake doing this in the picture? Sometimes the snake will even play dead so animals will leave it alone.

Snakes do not like to be bothered by humans. Don't touch any wild snake. It's hard to tell if it's dangerous or if it's just pretending.

