



IDENTIFICATION CHALLENGE

Before you begin...



This activity transforms our native rattlesnake species into challenging tangram puzzles! It's designed to combine problem-solving, logical thinking skills, mathematical concepts like symmetry, reflection, translation, rotation, and geometry with wildlife identification.

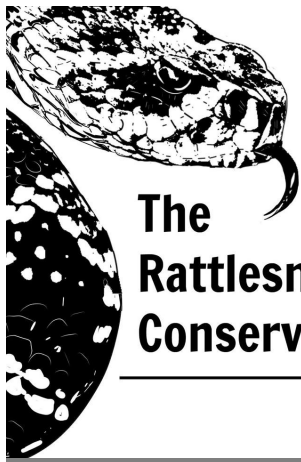
Learning to identify our native rattlesnake species based on their patterns and characteristics can empower children with the knowledge they need to keep themselves safe and also instill a deeper understanding of the natural world around them. It's important to teach children to respect snakes (and all wildlife) by keeping their distance! You can help by encouraging your students to stop, back away, and tell a responsible adult when they encounter a snake.

Directions

1. Before you begin, prepare by printing the included Florida rattlesnake species photos. Laminate if desired.
2. Use the included tangram pattern to cut the photos along the pattern lines, or have students use the pattern to cut their own!
3. Follow the included classroom information sheet to discuss with your class the characteristics and features of each of our native rattlesnake species. Ask questions! Has anyone in your class seen a rattlesnake in the wild?! Can they guess what kind it was? Which Florida rattlesnake species is their favorite? What should they do if they encounter a rattlesnake?

You will need...

1. Classroom information sheet (included)
2. Tangram pattern (included)
3. Florida's rattlesnake species (included)
4. Scissors
5. Laminator (optional)



**The
Rattlesnake
Conservancy**

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did you know...



Did you know that Florida has 3 native rattlesnake species?! Each one has its own unique markings. Can you use these hints to piece together and identify each one?

A large, heavy-bodied, tan snake with dark diamonds down its back that are lighter brown in the center and have cream colored borders. The large, thick head has a dark stripe through each eye with cream colored borders and cream colored vertical stripes on the snout. The diamond pattern usually fades to a brownish colored tail that ends in a tan colored rattle.

EASTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE



The canebrake, or timber rattlesnake has a pinkish tan or gray colored body with a rust colored stripe down the center of its back. It has a unique pattern of black, chevron crossbands with a black tail that ends in a light colored rattle.

CANEBRAKE / TIMBER RATTLESNAKE

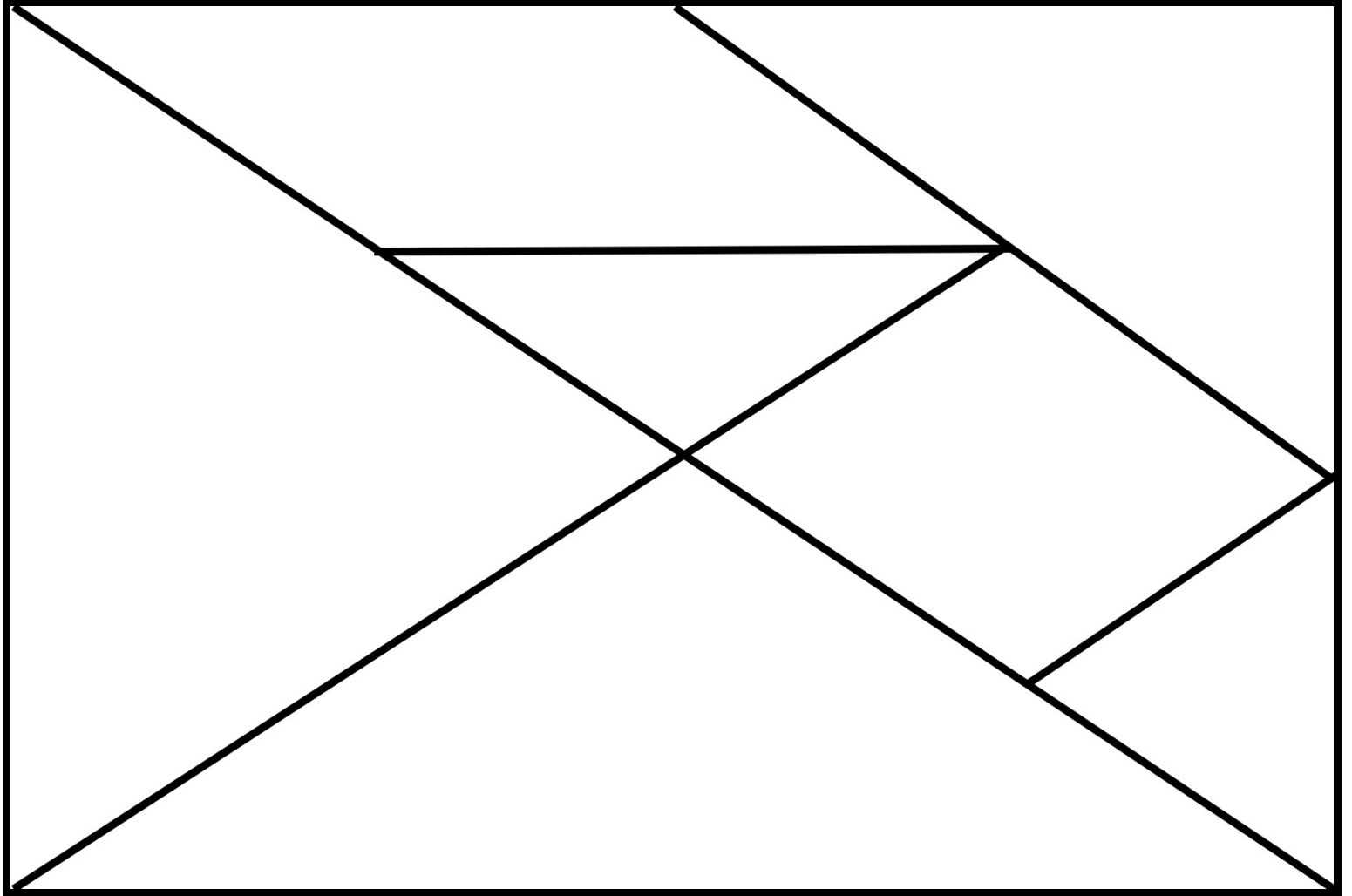


The dusky pygmy rattlesnake is the smallest rattlesnake species in Florida. It is light to dark gray with darker, black colored blotches along the length of its body. It often has a brownish, rust colored stripe down the center of its back and dark stripes on the sides and top of the head.

DUSKY PYGMY RATTLESNAKE



Tangram pattern



Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake



Canebrake / Timber Rattlesnake



Dusky Pygmy Rattlesnake

