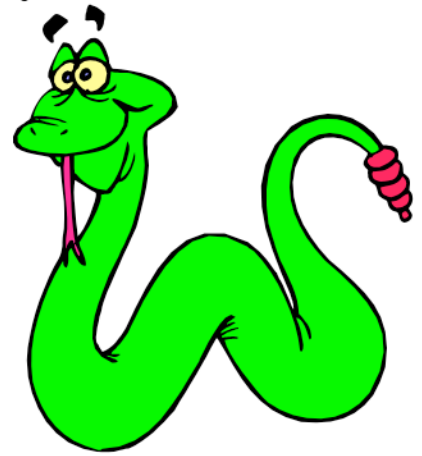


The Rattlesnake Wrestlers

By: Catherine Clarke Fox (Adapted by Have Fun Teaching)

When Heather Ramirez went to the dentist with her husband Len, she wasn't there to have her teeth cleaned. She and her husband are professional snake removers. They were there to catch a wild rattlesnake and return it to the wild.



She describes her work as “protecting people from rattlesnakes - and protecting rattlesnakes from people.” In California, the northern Pacific rattlesnake often comes face-to-face with humans.

Studies show these snakes usually only bite people who are trying to catch or kill them. A rattlesnake can even give a loud warning that says, “I am here, stay away” with the rattles located at the tip of its tail. “We find rattlesnakes everywhere,” says Ramirez. “In houses, in yards and woodpiles, under decks.”

Snake Safety Tips

- *If you see a snake, don't touch it. Go tell an adult.
- *Look carefully when you go out to play.
- *Never put your hands into woodpiles or dark corners of the garage.

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Read the story. Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Why did Heather and her husband go to the dentist?
 - A. They needed to have their teeth cleaned
 - B. They went for their monthly checkup
 - C. They needed to catch a wild rattlesnake
 - D. The Dentist found a dead snake
2. What do Heather and Len do with the wild snakes after they catch them?
 - A. Bring them to the zoo
 - B. Return them to the wild
 - C. Sell them on Ebay
 - D. Post it on their Facebook page
3. As professional snake removers, who are Heather and Len helping to protect?
 - A. They protect people from rattlesnakes
 - B. They protect rattlesnakes from people
 - C. Both A and B
 - D. They don't protect anyone
4. According to this article, when do snakes usually bite?
 - A. When you are trying to catch or kill them
 - B. When you are trying to eat them
 - C. When they are thirsty
 - D. When they are bored
5. Why is it important to never put your hands into woodpiles or dark corners of the garage?
 - A. It might be very dirty
 - B. It is too dark
 - C. There might be turtles there
 - D. There might be snakes hiding there

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ANSWER KEY

Read the story. Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Why did Heather and her husband go to the dentist?

- A. They needed to have their teeth cleaned
- B. They went for their monthly checkup
- C. They needed to catch a wild rattlesnake*
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- D. Post it on their Facebook page

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