

# *Anacondas*

by Linda George











**SNAKES**

*Anacondas*

by Linda George

**Consultants:**

The staff of Black Hills Reptile Gardens  
Rapid City, South Dakota



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Summary: Describes the physical attributes, habitat, and hunting and mating methods of anacondas.

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Cheryl A. Ertelt, cover, 16–17, 34, 44

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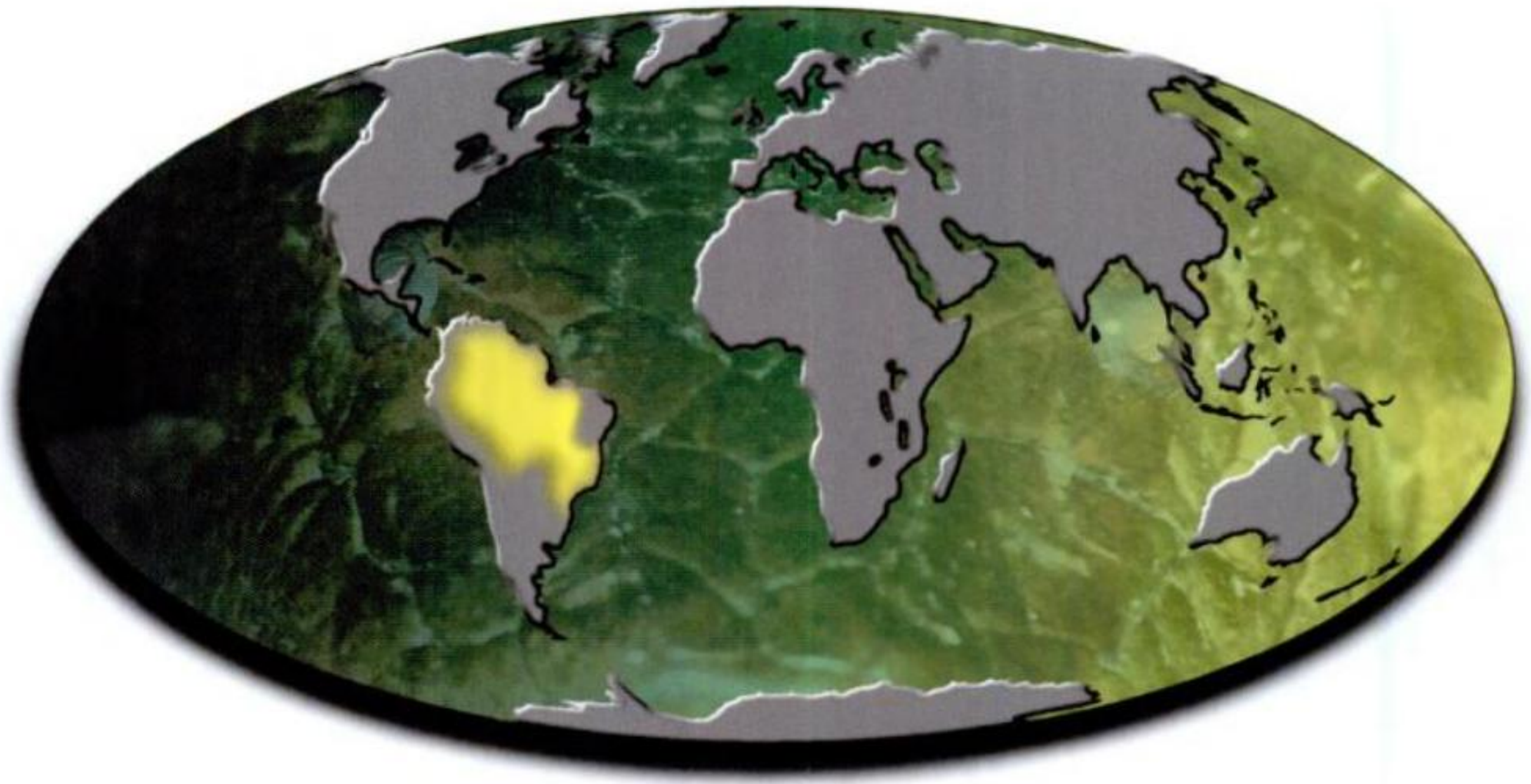


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**Yellow represents the anaconda's range.**

## ***Fast Facts about Anacondas***

**Scientific Names:** There are three species of Anacondas. These species are *Eunectes murinus*, *Eunectes notaeus*, and *Eunectes deschauenseei*.

**Size:** Anacondas are the heaviest snakes in the world. They may weigh more than 200 pounds (90 kilograms) in the wild. Anacondas also are one of the longest snakes. They can grow to be more than 20 feet (6 meters) long.

- Range:** Anacondas live in northern and central South America. They most often are found near the Amazon and Orinoco Rivers. These areas include the countries of Brazil, Columbia, and Venezuela.
- Food:** Anacondas eat fish, birds, small mammals, and reptiles.
- Habitat:** People sometimes call anacondas “water boas.” Anacondas spend much of their time in the water. Anacondas live in marshes and swamps. They also live near rivers and streams.
- Habits:** Anacondas are constrictors. They kill prey by squeezing it. Snake experts believe that anacondas are ill-tempered. Anacondas often bite handlers.
- Reproduction:** Anacondas are ovoviviparous. Their eggs develop and hatch inside the female’s body. The female then gives live birth to her young. A female anaconda will give birth to a clutch of 20 to 40 young.



