

SNAKES ALIVE!

Many people have an aversion to snakes. Often this dislike stands in the way of their learning what interesting creatures snakes are and the good they do. Upon seeing a snake the most popular thing to do is to kill it. This is unfortunate for the snake is a unique and beneficial creature. Many a teacher has won her way into the hearts of boys by the way she has taken care of the snake situation at school. For snakes somehow get into the school, most frequently by the opening that every pocket has!

Because a snake is "fearfully and wondrously made," it is held in awe and superstition by many. It would be interesting for the teacher to learn what ones her pupils hold. This would make a good approach to this broadcast.

we hit the trail

We'll discuss some of these facts in the broadcast:

1. A snake is a cold-blooded creature.
2. Folks who say a snake is slimy don't know what they are talking about.
3. A snake can swallow a victim larger than its own head.
4. It has no chewing teeth, but incurving teeth move the food into the gullet by movements of the jaws. The acids in the stomach are the teeth.
5. All snakes are carnivorous. Some like frogs and toads, some birds, some rodents and other snakes. North America has many rat- and mouse-eaters, fortunately.
6. Snakes catch and subdue their victims in different ways.
7. More than half of our kinds of snakes lay eggs. With the rest the young are born alive.
8. Because the eggs are buried, there is no need for the use of camouflage.
9. The forked tongue that is constantly flickering is not the stinger. The tongue is an air "taster."
10. The best way to study the locomotion of a snake is by its track in the sand.
11. Snakes hibernate beneath logs, in rock crevices; some congregate in dens.
12. The snake is a friend to man. Let it live!

April 7, 1952

MODERN PAUL BUNYANS

Once there lived a mighty-muscled, bellicose, bearded man by the name of Paul Bunyan. In 1837 he led a rebellion of French-Canadians against the English Queen's troops at Saint Eustache in Canada. He did it with the fury of Samson among the Philistines, and his name took on the grandeur of legend. After the revolt, he operated a logging camp. He made the slaughter of trees a heroic labor, and the name of Paul Bunyan is today synonymous with wanton slaughter of trees. Tales and songs woven about his name are legion.

In the latter part of the 19th century, the demands of a growing country are the primal reason for the reckless removal of our once-bountiful forests. The timber had to be cheap, and no care was taken to cut wisely or to protect the ground from fire. Get the trees to market regardless of any consequences was the activating thought. In the wake of such treatment of a valuable heritage there has been much suffering and hardship. But now the state and private interests and individuals have awakened to the imperative need for trees. So restoration has been taking place; the spade has replaced the axe, and trees by the millions are being planted each year. Schools Forests have become a school activity, and school children and boys on farms are planting trees where trees should grow—Modern Paul Bunyans.

we hit the trail

What is the philosophy behind the thought: "A tree planter is a tree protector"? When children work with trees and soil, is it reasonable to expect they will develop an attitude of respect and responsibility?

The tree is the link between the earth and the clouds, the protector and enricher of the soil, the conserver of moisture, the home and larder of wildlife, the sweetener of the air, the soul of the landscape's beauty; and its flesh is appropriated by man for many thousands of uses. Trees are an indispensable part of our nation's life. We could not live without them, and the more we have the more abundant our lives. This is the conviction we want to bring to those who have life before them—the children.

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