Who's In My Yard?

Case 1: Never Ring on the Scary One



HOW TO PLAY

Who's In My Yard? You are Player 3.

1. **Name it and say why.** Use the Wall's whole name ("black rat snake," not "black snake"). Spelling doesn't count.
2. **One question each.** Ask the caller anything, or ask to **Look Closer** at one body part.
3. **Sure early? Ring.** Anyone can ring once, before the second question is asked. Write your name and why, face down. Then sit in the Lawn Chair till the envelope opens. No questions, no changes, and you can talk, but don't tell your answer.
4. **Not sure? Write NOT ENOUGH YET**, plus the body part, pattern or behavior you need to see.

NOPE a card when it says something different from what the caller saw. Didn't see it? It can't NOPE anything. Not on the Wall? Doesn't count.

GOLD = ONLY ME: no other animal on this Wall is known for this. If the caller saw it, everybody else is NOPE.

Your why: the ONLY ME the caller saw. If you solved it by NOPEs, your why is every NOPE with its clue (fill in your NOPE strip).

★ Right name and a true why. ★★ Rang early, right name, true why. NOT ENOUGH YET: ★ if the envelope says so too and you named something that would settle it. Wrong, or right for a wrong reason: no star. Extra true clues don't hurt. A false one does.

You, Player 3: you hear both questions free. To ring, fill in the Ring box on your score page before you turn to the second question.

Small print: The answer is always on the Wall. The same animal can call twice. NOT ENOUGH YET? The caller looks again, and everyone who held gets one more question. Some cases are TEAM CASES: one slate, and everyone on the team gets the star.

YOUR SCORE PAGE • CASE 1

Ring box (only if you ring, before the second question)

Name: | Why:

Your slate at STOP

Name: | Why:

Stars after the envelope

☆ ☆

The people, the show and Pinch Creek are pretend. The animals and every fact about them are real. When an animal talks in a green balloon, that's pretend too, but what it says about its life is true.


Marcus Haskett had been in Pinch Creek six days. Nobody knew his secret yet.
ROSA'S HARDWARE
Mom's store. My podium.
Nell, podiums have buzzers. That's a bucket.
Yours is the dented one. Grandma, why does my cousin even get a bucket?
Because one player is just you, being right at a camera. Marcus is Player 2.
JINGLE
Here comes my brother. Sorry in advance.
You said that yesterday.
Mrs. Abernathy said especially not you.
She said especially the host.
But I'm the host!
TELL JUNE TO STOP PEEKING
Mrs. Abernathy. She studied wild animals for forty years. Now she naps.
She wrote today's cards and told some kid's mom to call the show. The answer's in here.


What's the prize?
Most stars by Thanksgiving wins the Golden Gnome. I've won it twice.
There have been two seasons.
How do I get a star?
A kid calls about something she saw. Find it on the Wall. Write its name, and why.
What if I'm sure early?
Ring, and write it down. Right, with a good why? Two stars.
But then you sit in that chair till the envelope opens.
I've tested it.
I know game shows. Every show sneaks in a scary one, a trick question. Never ring on the scary one.


Good morning, North Carolina! All thirteen of you!
Twelve of them are Mrs. Pruitt's fifth grade. It's homework.
Who's the thirteenth?
Mrs. Pruitt. Grading it.
VIEWERS: 13
This is Who's In My Yard?, and it's a big yard. It's called North Carolina.
BRRRING
Hi! I'm Lila! I live near the ocean!
There was a SNAKE in our garden on Wednesday! Mom won't go in till we know what kind, and she HAS to plant lettuce Sunday!
Then let's find out. Tell me what you saw, Lila, not what you think it was.





NOPE a card when it says something different from what the caller saw. Didn't see it? It can't NOPE. ONLY ME = no other animal on this Wall is known for this. Not on the Wall? Doesn't count.
REPTILES: scales; eggs with shells, or born live. AMPHIBIANS: no scales; eggs in jelly.
Only TURTLES wear a shell.

1 Eastern garter snake
REPTILE · SNAKE



tewsc1 · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Mooresville, NC

ONLY ME: three pale stripes down its body
LOOK FOR: slender; greenish, brown or black
HOME: gardens, meadows and yards

☐ **NOPE:** _____

2 Copperhead
REPTILE · SNAKE



Shreybae · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Durham County, NC

LOOK FOR: wide, triangle-shaped head
HOME: woods, rocky areas, leaf litter
BABIES: born live

☐ **NOPE:** _____

3 Black rat snake
REPTILE · SNAKE



Dale A Morgan · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Hillsborough, NC

LOOK FOR: blotched when young, often black when grown
HOME: forests, farms, barns and suburbs
FOOD: rodents, birds, eggs and more

☐ **NOPE:** _____

4 Banded water snake
REPTILE · SNAKE



kaynine35 · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Hyde County, NC

LOOK FOR: older ones may turn very dark
HOME: ponds, swamps, marshes, slow streams
HABIT: makes its head look wide when scared

☐ **NOPE:** _____

5 Eastern hognose snake
REPTILE · SNAKE



jefflewisnature · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Southern Shores, NC

ONLY ME: can play dead when scared
LOOK FOR: colors vary a lot, even all black
HABIT: makes its head look wide when scared

☐ **NOPE:** _____

6 Cottonmouth
REPTILE · SNAKE



Nick Spigler · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Raeford, NC

LOOK FOR: heavy body; grown-ups may look all dark
HOME: swamps, marshes and slow water
BABIES: born live

☐ **NOPE:** _____



Ring now?



Ring now?
Fill in your Ring box before you turn the page.







2 Copperhead
REPTILE · SNAKE



Shreybae · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Durham County, NC

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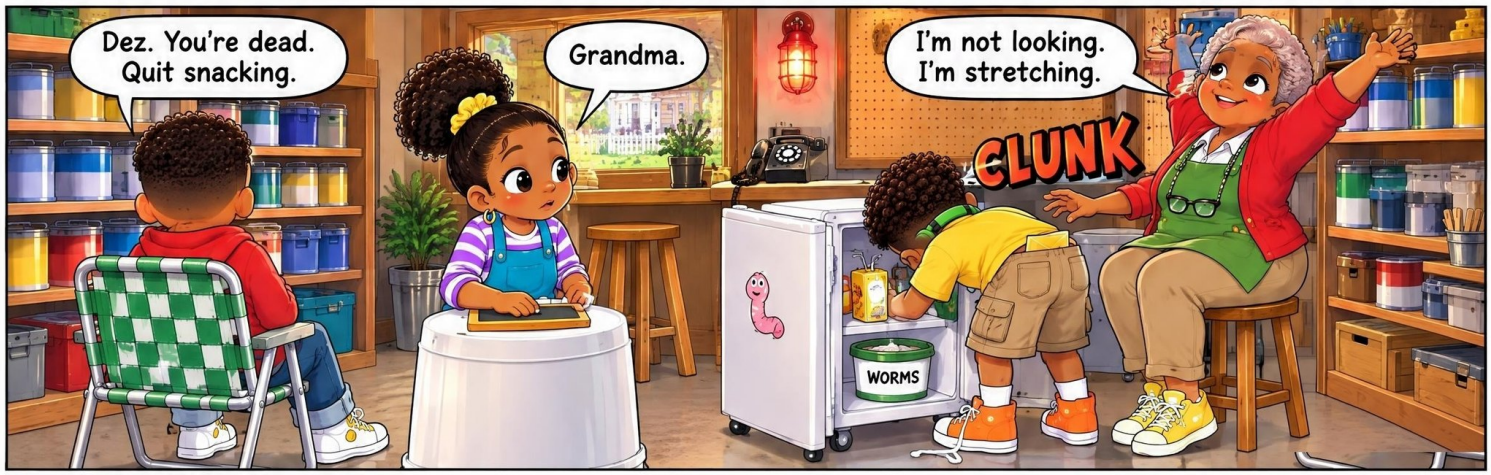

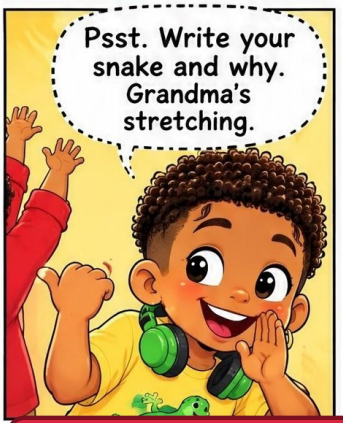

1 Eastern garter snake
REPTILE · SNAKE



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ONLY ME: three pale stripes down its body
LOOK FOR: slender; greenish, brown or black
HOME: gardens, meadows and yards

2 Copperhead
REPTILE · SNAKE



Shreybae · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Durham County, NC

LOOK FOR: wide, triangle-shaped head
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3 Black rat snake
REPTILE · SNAKE



Dale A Morgan · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Hillsborough, NC

LOOK FOR: blotched when young, often black when grown
HOME: forests, farms, barns and suburbs
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REPTILE · SNAKE



kaynine35 · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Hyde County, NC

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REPTILE · SNAKE



jefflewisnature · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Southern Shores, NC

ONLY ME: can play dead when scared
LOOK FOR: colors vary a lot, even all black
HABIT: makes its head look wide when scared

6 Cottonmouth
REPTILE · SNAKE



Nick Spigler · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Raeford, NC

LOOK FOR: heavy body; grown-ups may look all dark
HOME: swamps, marshes and slow water
BABIES: born live

STOP! Fill in "Your slate at STOP" on page 2.

Look at that pig nose!



Photo: Shreybae · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Wake County, NC

THIS KIND. COLORS VARY. JUNE: HANDS OFF.

IT'S THE

EASTERN HOGNOSE SNAKE.

PROVED BY: PLAYED DEAD.

It wasn't dead, Lila. It was faking.

EASTERN HOGNOSE SNAKE. PLAYED DEAD.

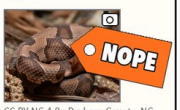
Dead things don't leave.

1 Eastern garter snake



tewsc1 · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Mooresville, NC

2 Copperhead



Shreybae · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Durham County, NC

3 Black rat snake



Dale A Morgan · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Hillsborough, NC

4 Banded water snake



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5 Eastern hognose snake



jefflewisnature · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Southern Shores, NC

6 Cottonmouth



Nick Spigler · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Raeford, NC

FAKING? So it wasn't my fault! Next time I'm going down to watch!

NO! You back UP!

Every time.

I was testing the chair.

COPPERHEAD. WIDE HEAD.

It went wide—

—when it saw her.

Its head didn't get bigger. It just LOOKED wide.

And head shape fools people. So never get close enough to check.

That one was a big bluffer, sugar. Plant away, and watch where you put your hands.

MOM! LETTUCE!

Did you beat Nell? Marcus?


Meanwhile, in the sandy woods past Lila's yard
Everybody talks about my acting. Nobody asks about my digging. This nose is a shovel.
That girl Nell figured me out with one question. Rude.
That night
You said never ring on the scary one. Then you rang on the scariest one.
Why not?
She'd never let me forget it. And Dad says we're only here till he finds a job back in Charlotte. I can hide it that long.
Fine. I'm scared of snakes. You can't tell Nell.
I already knew. You did the hognose. Big and loud, then you played dead in that chair.
You played dead too!
I was acting. You meant it.
FWUMP

Eastern hognose snake

REPTILE · SNAKE

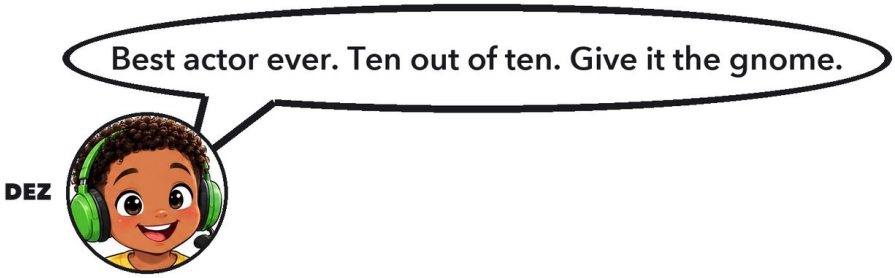
PLAYER CARD



Photo: Joshua Liverman · CC BY 4.0 · Corolla, NC

This one is orange. It's the same kind of snake as the dark brown one on the reveal page. Hognose colors vary a lot.

Look for	An upturned snout for digging. Its colors vary a lot: blotched, orange, brown, gray or nearly black.
Home	Sandy woods, fields and coastal dunes where it can dig, across much of North Carolina.
Eats	Toads most of all. It also eats frogs and other small animals.
Babies	It lays eggs in sandy soil. The hatchlings already have the upturned snout.
Role	It hunts toads and other small animals. Its big show scares people, but it is generally not dangerous to people.
Cool fact	Big teeth at the back of its mouth may help it "pop" puffed-up toads so it can swallow them.
Leave it there	Never poke or flip a snake to see the act. Back up, give it room, let it leave.



The ones that fooled us

LOOK-ALIKE LINEUP

The copperhead fooled Marcus, the water snake fooled Dez, and the hognose's act made everybody jump.



Photo: Robert Meehan · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Durham, NC

Copperhead

Marcus's pick. A copperhead's head is a wide triangle. Some harmless snakes make their heads look wide when they're scared. So a head, wide or not, can't tell you which snake it is. Copperheads are venomous: photos only.



Photo: Shreybae · CC BY-NC 4.0 · Winterville, NC

Banded water snake

Dez's pick. It can make its head look wide when it's scared, too, and older ones can turn very dark. It eats fish and amphibians. Never handle a snake.



Photo: Joshua Liverman · CC BY 4.0 · Corolla, NC

Eastern hognose snake

It spreads its neck so its head looks wide, hisses and lunges at nothing. Then it plays dead on its back with its tongue hanging out. It's a bluff, but you can't tell a bluff just by looking, so back up anyway.

Real woods

In sandy fields and woods of North Carolina's Coastal Plain and Sandhills, the southern hognose snake (not on our list) has a turned-up nose too. It is rare, and it is protected in North Carolina. Experts tell the two apart with clear photos and other details. Never flip a snake to look.

Optional questions (answers in the back)

1. Lila's snake made its head look wide. Why couldn't that prove it was a copperhead?
2. Lila's snake hissed. Why didn't the hiss NOPE anybody?
3. Which ONLY ME did Lila see? Which words told you?

Nell got this one. Did you?

How Nell proved it

CHECK YOUR SLATE

- **NOPE: Eastern garter snake.** Its card says three pale stripes down its body. Lila could see all of it: no stripes.
- **Fits, but proves nothing:** "brownish, with big dark patches," and the wide head (the copperhead, the banded water snake and the hognose all fit that).
- **Counts for nothing:** the hiss. No card on the Wall says anything about hissing.
- **The ONLY ME Lila saw:** "It died," and later "it was gone." Marcus said it, a little late: dead things don't leave. So it was playing dead. Of the snakes on this Wall, only the Eastern hognose snake is known for playing dead, so every other card is NOPE.
- **Only this Wall:** Possums play dead too. They just aren't on the Wall, so they don't count.
- **Stars:** ★ for EASTERN HOGNOSE SNAKE with PLAYED DEAD as your why. Rang EASTERN HOGNOSE SNAKE before Nell's question? Good guess, but the clue that proves it hadn't come yet. Right for a wrong reason: no star.

Answers to the optional questions

1. Three cards fit a wide head: the copperhead, and the hognose and the banded water snake, which make theirs look wide when they're scared. Something that fits doesn't prove it. And never get close to a snake to check its head.
2. No card on the Wall says anything about hissing. A card only gets NOPEd when it says something different from what the caller saw, or when the caller saw another card's ONLY ME. (Real hognoses do hiss.)
3. "It died," and then "it was gone." A dead snake can't crawl away, so it was playing dead. On this Wall, that's the Eastern hognose snake's ONLY ME.

Coach note

Cards are short. A card that leaves something out is not proof the animal never does it, so silence never NOPEs a card. A card is out only when the caller saw something different from what it says, or saw another card's ONLY ME. ONLY ME is a promise about that one Wall, not about every animal: each ONLY ME line is checked against every other animal on that Wall before printing. (Opossums, for example, also play dead.)

Photo credits

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Wall card 1 (pages 6, 9, 10). Eastern garter snake. Photo by tewsc1, CC BY-NC 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/184875878; Bayberry Creek Cir, Mooresville, NC, US. Placed on a code-drawn Wall card with a camera icon; scaled to fit, never cropped; orange NOPE tags are drawn over it on some pages.

Wall card 2 (pages 6, 7, 8, 9, 10). Copperhead. Photo by Shreybae, CC BY-NC 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/366253359; Durham County, NC, USA. Placed on a code-drawn Wall card with a camera icon; scaled to fit, never cropped; orange NOPE tags are drawn over it on some pages.

Wall card 3 (pages 6, 9, 10). Black rat snake (young). Photo by Dale A Morgan, CC BY-NC 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/639033473; Orange County SportsPlex, Hillsborough, NC 27278, USA, 2026-04-16. Placed on a code-drawn Wall card with a camera icon; scaled to fit, never cropped; orange NOPE tags are drawn over it on some pages.

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Page 10, the photo print. Eastern hognose snake. Photo by Shreybae, CC BY-NC 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/393302291; Wake County, NC, USA. Scaled to fit, not cropped; a white print border and a camera icon added. Also used as a drawing reference for the illustrated snake on page 11 (an adaptation).

Pages 12 and 13. Eastern hognose snake (orange). Photo by Joshua Liverman, CC BY 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/15852091; Corolla, NC 27927, USA. Scaled to fit, not cropped; a camera icon added. Also used as a drawing reference for the illustrated snake on page 11 (an adaptation).

Page 13. Copperhead (head). Photo by Robert Meehan, CC BY-NC 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/47209328; Friends School Rd, Durham, NC 27705, USA, 2012-03-20. Scaled to fit, not cropped; a camera icon added.

Page 13. Banded water snake. Photo by Shreybae, CC BY-NC 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/477051647; Winterville, NC, USA, 2025-03-15. Scaled to fit, not cropped; a camera icon added.

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