



HOW TO STAY SAFE WITH SNAKES AROUND

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How many species snakes do we have in Zambia?

Total number of snakes in Zambia: 102

Harmless : 71

Deadly: 15

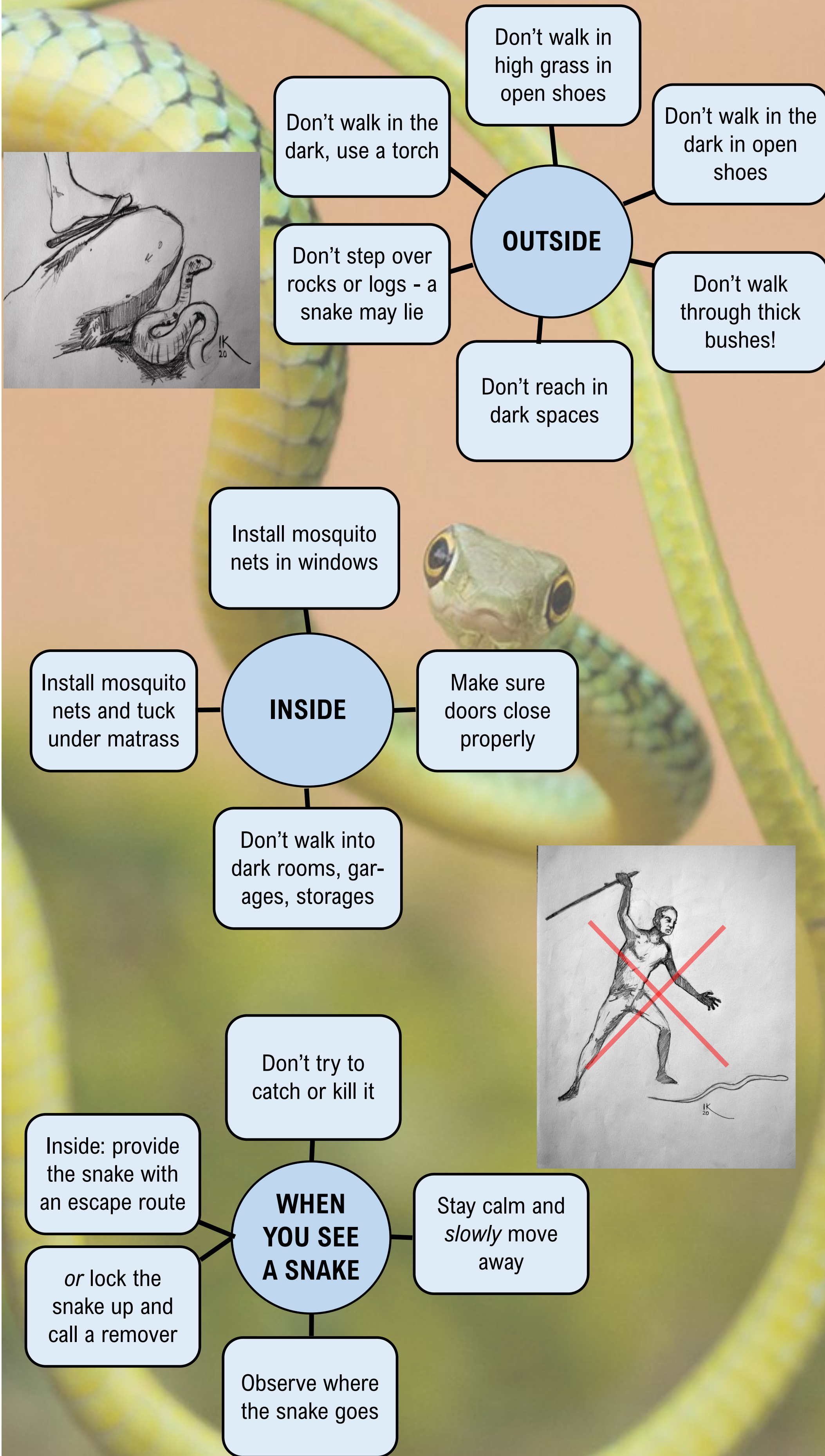
Dangerous, not deadly: 16

71 snake species are harmless to humans. This means that either they are not venomous or their venom is not strong enough to harm us.



Of the 31 harmful ones, 15 can give a life-threatening bite (deadly) and 16 give a bite which requires medical treatment.

How to avoid snakebites



How to keep snakes away?

Snakes need **two** things to survive or even thrive: **shelter** and **food**.

SHELTER

Snakes need places to hide and rest

Snakes hide under branches, leaves, building material, etc.

FOOD

Snakes need access to food

Snakes eat animals such as mice, rats, lizards, frogs, toads

What should we do?

Tidy up your yard, cut the grass, fill cracks and holes

Clean your yards to avoid pests from living there

No shelter for snakes!

No food for snakes!

SNAKES MOVE ELSEWHERE!!!

Snakebite protocol

In case of a snakebite, **time is of the essence!**

The **shorter** the time between bite and professional treatment, the higher the chance of survival.

IN CASE OF A SNAKEBITE ALWAYS:

KEEP VICTIM CALM

TRANSPORT VICTIM TO A HEALTH FACILITY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!

IN CASE VENOM WAS SPAT IN THE EYE: WASH OUT WITH LOTS OF WATER!

ELEVATE AND IMMOBILISE LIMB

Contact a snakebite expert

Marcel van Driel (HHiSS):

+260 97 424 81 44

Arno Naude (Snakebite Assist):

+27 83 739 93 03

Mike Perry (African Snakebite and Venom):

+27 83 448 88 54

NEVER:

CUT OR SUCK THE BITE AREA

APPLY ELECTRIC SHOCK

APPLY OR GIVE ALCOHOL

APPLY HEAT OR ICE

APPLY TRADITIONAL MEDICATION

APPLY A TOURNIQUET, unless advised by an expert.

GIVE ANTI VENOM AS A FIRST AID

