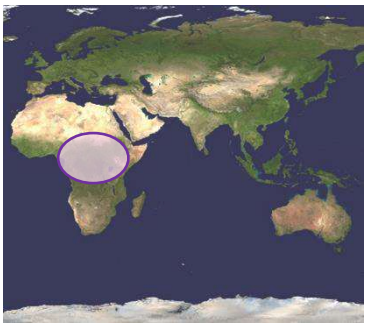
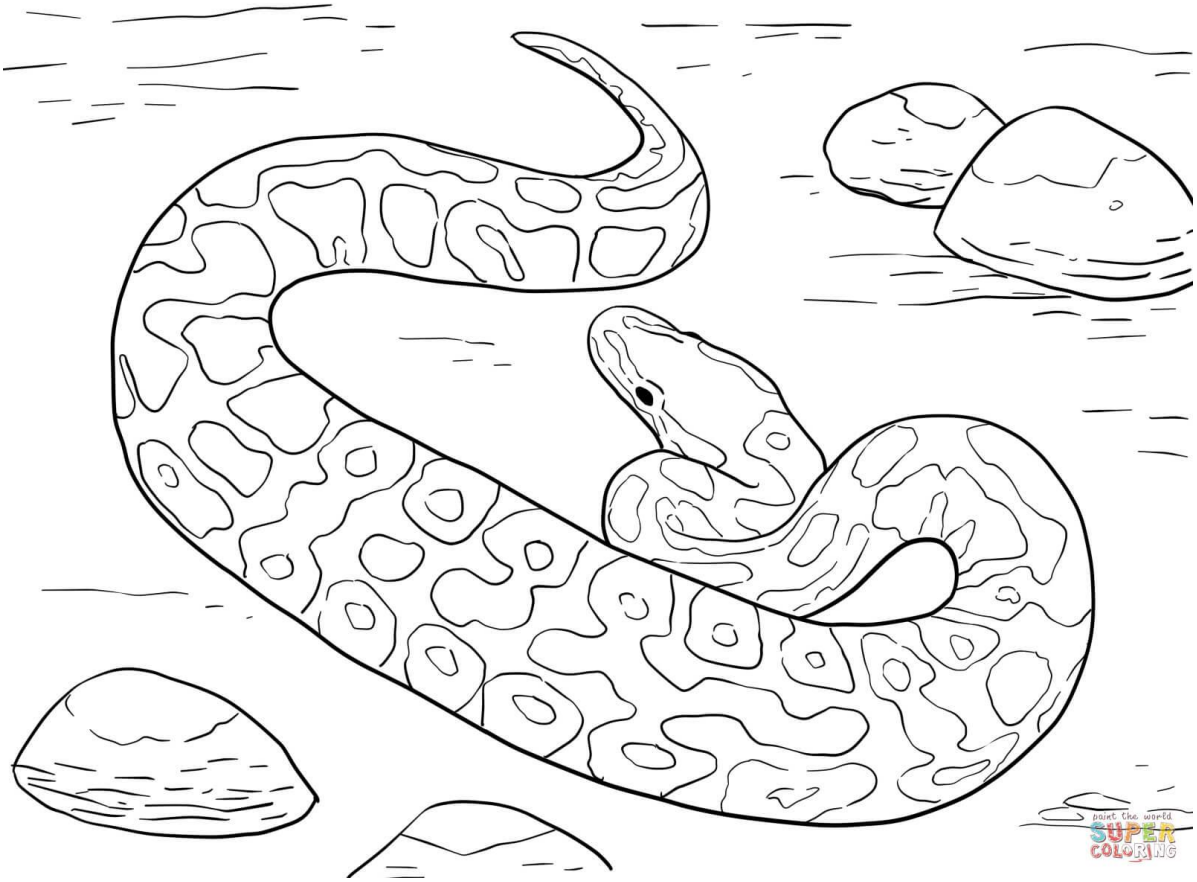
Here at ZooMontana, our resident ball python's name is Harry, and he was born in 1994 – he's the zoo's oldest resident! Ball Pythons are very calm snakes from Africa that have some amazing adaptations. For example, they get their name from a behavioral adaptation (something they do that helps them survive): they will roll up into a ball & stick their head in the middle when they are frightened. This is intended to protect their head from predators! Because of their calm nature & gorgeous color patterns, Ball Pythons are very common pets; unfortunately, this has led to people taking too many from the wild for pets, and their species is currently considered threatened (likely to become endangered) in the wild. You can help by learning more about them, and then spreading the word so people can also know, help, and make responsible pet choices!

Ball pythons live in the dry savannahs (grasslands) and open forests of central and western Africa and are mostly nocturnal hunters. However, they may still come out during the day, and on a hot day, they will sometimes go for a swim to cool off!



- Ball pythons have heat pits that are super sensitive, so they can pick up the heat given off by their warm-blooded prey like mice and small birds!
- They are typically about 4-5 ft long, but can get up to 7 ft.
- They are not venomous, but instead use constriction, or squeezing, to kill their prey.
- They're one of the few species of snakes that show parental care – when they lay their eggs, instead of leaving them like many snakes, the mother will stay and wrap around her eggs and keep them warm by shivering her muscles!

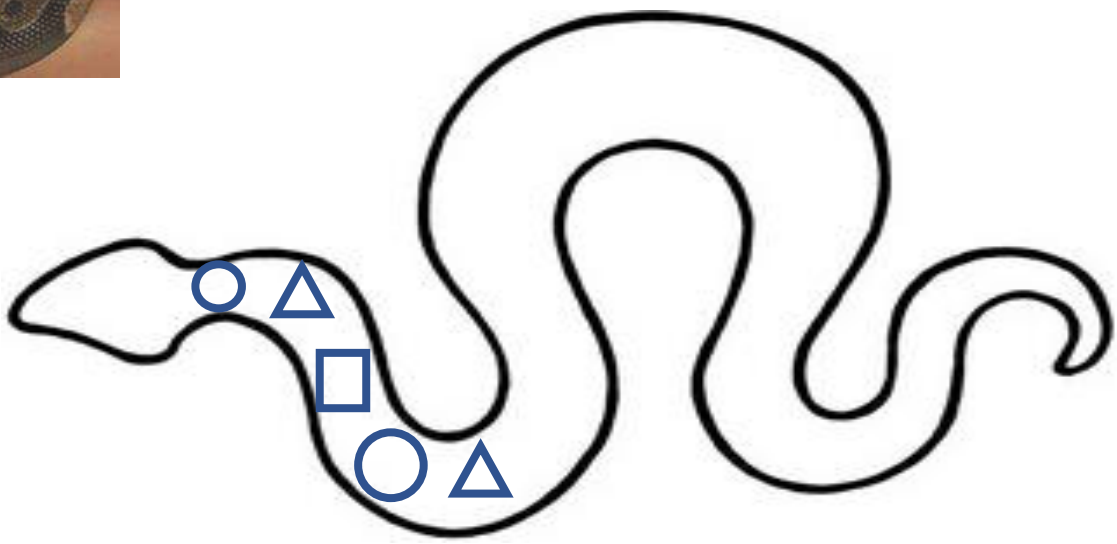


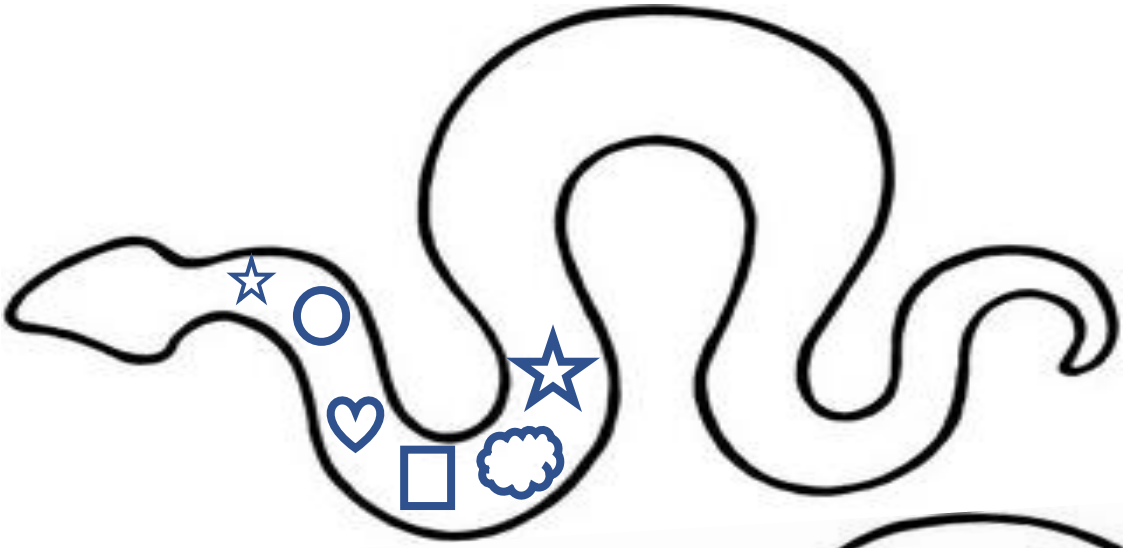
Can you color in this ball python, and add some dry grass to their habitat so they can camouflage?

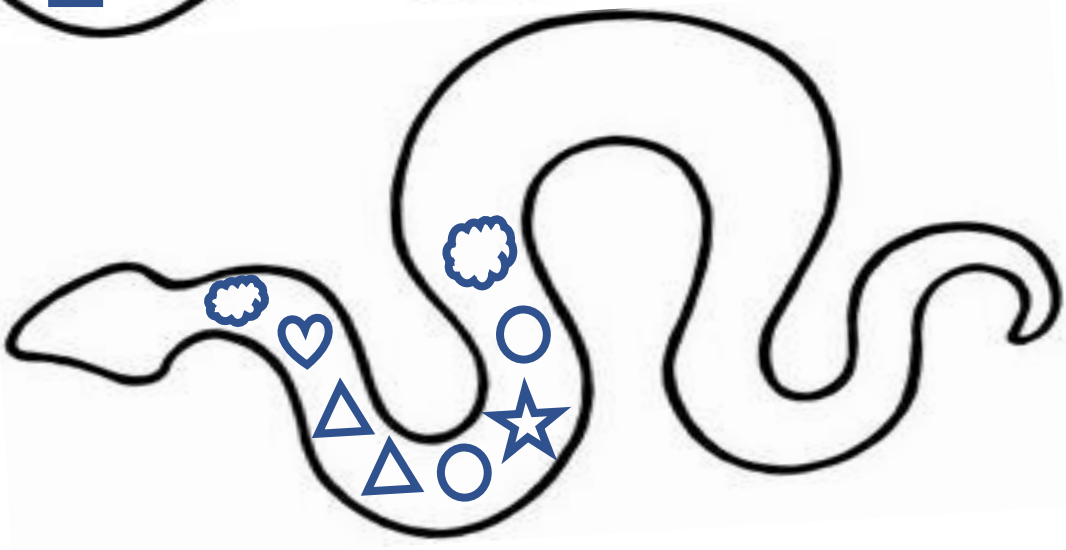


Most Ball Pythons have gorgeous black spots on top of brown and tan skin like this photo of ZooMontana's Ball Python Harry, and each snake has patterns of color and shape that are unique to the individual, just like your fingerprints are unique to you!

Can you finish the pattern on each snake below and give them each unique color markings?? You can also name them!







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