



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

Eat snakes to save the planet, say scientists

KEYWORDS

- ☐ **Protein:**
What muscle is made of
- ☐ **Efficient:**
Not wasting energy
- ☐ **Delicacy:** A treat, something delicious
- ☐ **Biltong:**
A kind of dried meat snack



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BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

While some of the largest snakes, such as anacondas and pythons, have eaten humans on very rare occasions, humans have often eaten snakes. In Hong Kong, snake soup is a traditional winter delicacy and one restaurant recently started selling snake pizza.

A new scientific study suggests that tucking into snake steak could make our diets a lot more eco-friendly.

Big mouth

A Burmese python can comfortably swallow a whole deer. But it's not how much food these snakes can eat that has impressed scientists. It's how little food they need.

Snakes grow quickly. They don't need much food to double in size in a few weeks, and they can go months without eating.

Because of this, a new scientific study says that snake meat might be the future of food.

Bodybuilders

Dr Daniel Natusch, from Macquarie University in Sydney, studied the growth of 4,000 pythons at two farms in Thailand and Vietnam.

It turns out that pythons are super-effective at turning the **protein** they eat into their own muscle.

Heavyweight champs

When it comes to packing

on the pounds, snakes are the most **efficient** source of animal protein there is. Cows need 30 times as much energy.

Snacking on snakes could help us to cut down greenhouse emissions.

Taste test

While snakes are a **delicacy** for some, not everyone is keen on slithering sources of protein. So how do pythons taste?

Dr Natusch is a fan.

"I've had it barbecued, in curries, as **biltong** and, yeah, it's great."





INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

WOULD YOU HAVE PYTHON FOR LUNCH?

WHAT
are some
ways to cook
snake?

WHO
studied the
snakes?

WHERE
were the
snakes being
farmed?

WHEN
did Chinese
people start
cooking snakes?

WHY
are snakes good
for the
environment?

HOW
many snakes
did Dr Natusch
look at?

1 TAKE ACTION

There are other ways to make your diet a little more green. Find out what you can do to reduce your food's carbon footprint if you don't want to eat snake.



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2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What have you found out in your investigation? Write, present or even record a piece that shows one way to have a greener lunch. Share what you've learned with your family and friends. What do they think? We want to hear your ideas too! Your teacher can share your reports with us too by sending them to editorial@theday.co.uk.

3 Build THE Change



CREATE YOUR DESIGN

It may be hard to convince people to swap steak for snake. Can you design an advert for a new snake company, or a building for a snake meat restaurant?

STEP 1:

Think about your design! Can you bring in scales to your design? What would entice you?

STEP 2:

Build the change! Draw your snake superfood product. If you have time, why not make your model of it using LEGO® bricks or other bits of recyclable materials?

Share your genius
Show your work
to your class!

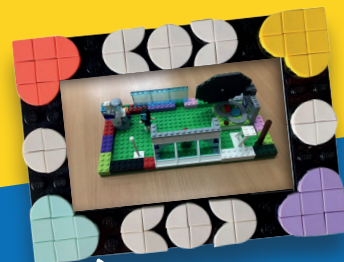


Upload a photo of your work to the **Build the Change** gallery by scanning the QR code and have your work displayed to inspire real-world change.



4 BUILDER OF THE WEEK

Every week we handpick one of the most inspirational designs from our online photo gallery to be our **BUILDER OF THE WEEK**. To get your creation featured here, ask your grown up to take a photograph and upload it to our Build the Change gallery, using the QR code on this page.



This week we have an eco-friendly learning space with solar panels and flowers.

"GREAT WORK!"



This worksheet is available every weekday at 6:30am London time from <https://theday.co.uk/resources/news-detectives>. For any feedback or help please contact buildthechange@theday.co.uk. Thank you.

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