

THE BIG SNAKE



Sam's father was afraid of snakes. Sam liked snakes.

Sam and his father went to the zoo one day. They went to the reptile house. The reptile house was full of lizards, frogs, and snakes. Sam saw one very big snake. "Dad, can we go look at the snake up close?" he asked.

Sam's father sighed, "Okay." So they went to see the snake.

The big snake was a boa constrictor. The zookeeper held it. It was as big as Sam. "A full grown boa would be bigger—about eight feet long!" the zookeeper told them.

"I would like to pet the snake," Sam told his father. "May I?"

"You must ask the zookeeper," his father answered.

The zookeeper said Sam could pet the snake. "It's warm and dry!" Sam said. "It's not cold or slimy."

"Would you like to pet the boa?" the zookeeper asked Sam's father.

Sam's father didn't look very happy. He said he would try. He let the zookeeper put the boa around his neck! Slowly, Sam's father smiled. "It's a very nice snake," he said. "It's fun to play with boa constrictors!" He was not afraid of snakes anymore!

"I like snakes!" Sam's father said. "I wish we had a snake of our own!"

Sam agreed!

Name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions about *THE BIG SNAKE*

1. Who is afraid of snakes at the beginning of the story?
 - a. Sam.
 - b. Sam's father.
 - c. Sam's sister.
 - d. We can't tell from the story.
2. Where do Sam and his father see the snake?
 - a. At the store.
 - b. On an airplane.
 - c. At the amphibian house.
 - d. At the reptile house.
3. How does the snake feel to Sam when he pets it?
 - a. Afraid.
 - b. Cold and slimy.
 - c. Warm and dry.
 - d. Hungry.
4. How long is an adult boa?
 - a. Three feet long.
 - b. Eight feet long.
 - c. Twenty feet long.
 - d. No one knows.
5. Would you pet a snake at the zoo? Why or why not?

Name _____ Date _____

Answers for *THE BIG SNAKE*

1. b

2. d

3. c

4. b

5. Answers will vary.