REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN MYTHS

- **Myth:** A coachwhip snake will whip a person to death with its tail and then stick the tip of its tail up their nose to see if they are still breathing.
  **Truth:** Coachwhips have a long tail that resembles a braided whip.

- **Myth:** A milksnake will milk a cow.
  **Truth:** Milk snakes often enter barns in search of mice and rats. They do not have the necessary mouth structure to milk a cow, nor could they digest milk.

- **Myth:** A hoop snake will place the end of its tail in its mouth and roll after a person.
  **Truth:** Mud snakes have the habit of lying in a loose coil while basking.

- **Myth:** A snake can hypnotize birds and other prey.
  **Truth:** Snakes have no eyelids, and they never blink. Some species may also move their head from side to side to gain depth perception while hunting.

- **Myth:** The bite from a kingsnake won’t kill you, but it will make you sick.
  **Truth:** Non-venomous species have no venom, and other than rare secondary infection they will not make a person ill.

- **Myth:** A rattlesnake gets a new button on its rattle every year.
  **Truth:** Every time a rattlesnake sheds its skin, a new button is formed on its rattle. Snakes usually shed several times a year.

- **Myth:** A constrictor snake crushes its prey.
  **Truth:** Constrictors kill by suffocation. They do not break bones or smash organs.

- **Myth:** When a snapping turtle bites it will not let go until it thunders.
  **Truth:** Snapping turtles have powerful jaws and often hold on tenaciously. Thunder has nothing to do with when they will let go.

- **Myth:** A toad can give you warts.
  **Truth:** Toad skin has a warty appearance, but human warts are caused by a virus.

- **Myth:** Sprinkling sulfur in your yard will keep snakes from coming near the house.
  **Truth:** There is no evidence to suggest that sulfur will deter snakes.

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