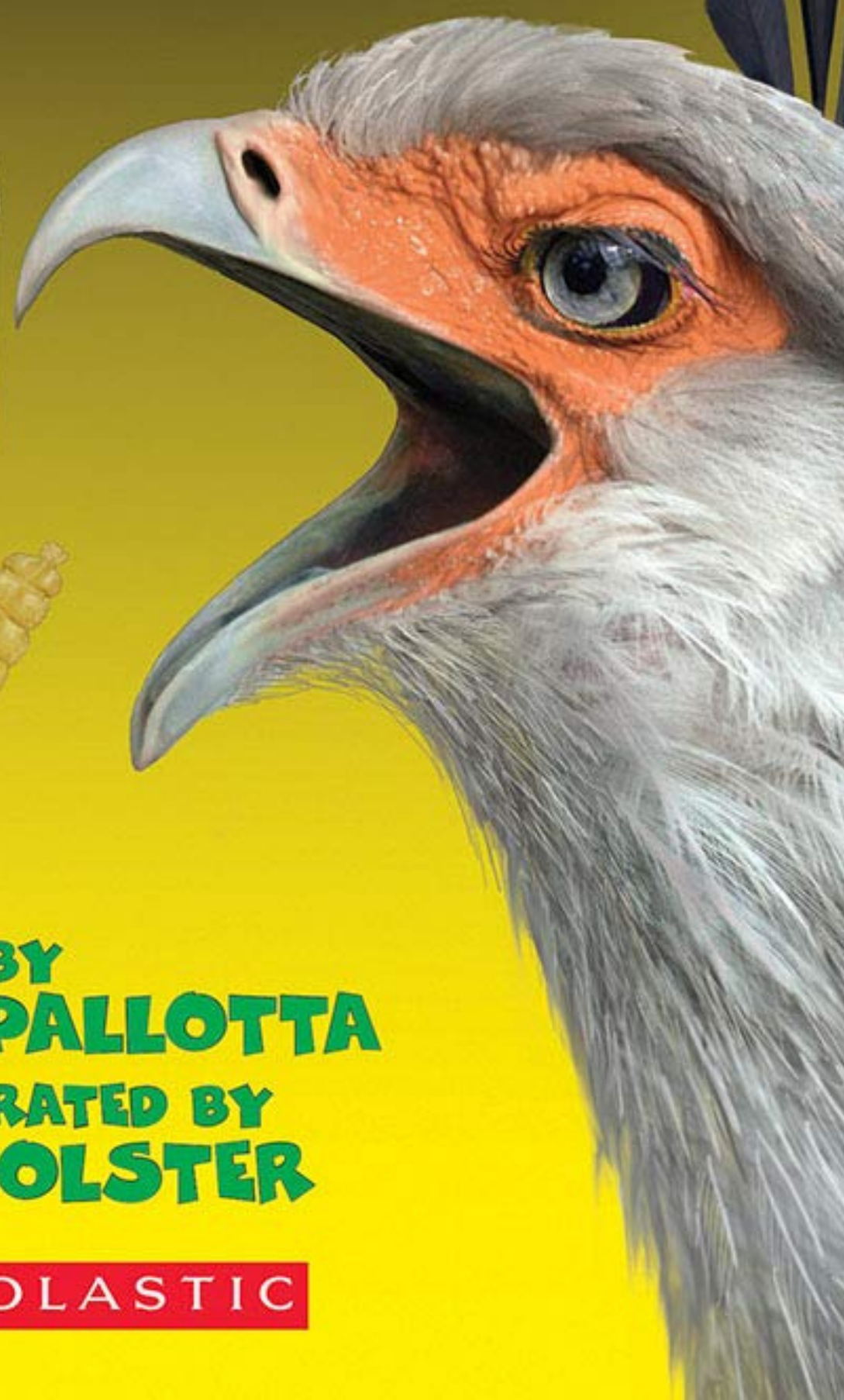


# — WHO — WOULD WIN?®

**RATTLESNAKE VS.  
SECRETARY BIRD**



BY  
**JERRY PALLOTTA**  
ILLUSTRATED BY  
**ROB BOLSTER**



**SCHOLASTIC**



# LENGTH

The western diamondback rattlesnake can grow up to about 7 feet long. Here are silhouettes of a basketball player and a rattlesnake.

**basketball player**

**western diamondback rattlesnake**

## DEFINITION

A silhouette is a dark shape against a lighter colored background.

## WEIGHT FACT

A rattlesnake weighs up to 15 pounds.

## LONGEST SNAKE

The reticulated python is the longest snake in the world: about 23 feet long!

7 feet

6 feet

5 feet

4 feet

3 feet

2 feet

1 foot

7 feet

6 feet

5 feet

4 feet

3 feet

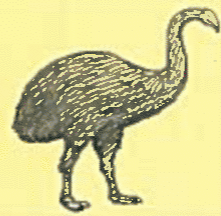
2 feet

1 foot

**secretary bird**

## EXTINCT FACT

The extinct 12-foot-tall moa was the largest known bird to have lived on Earth.



## TALLEST FACT

The tallest living bird is the ostrich; it is 9 feet tall.

**average 5-year-old**

## WEIGHT FACT

A secretary bird weighs about 12 pounds.

If you hear the rattle, stay away! It's not the biggest or

Most of its height is in its legs. Long, skinny legs!

## WHAT'S SPECIAL?

What is special about rattlesnakes? Rattles!

### FACT

The rattle is at the tail end of the snake.



### DID YOU KNOW?

A rattlesnake is not the type of snake to go looking for trouble. The rattle sound is a warning to stay away.

Rattlesnakes molt and shed their skin. The more times they shed, the longer their rattles.

## WHAT'S UNIQUE?

What is special about secretary birds? They have the longest legs of any bird of prey. Their lower legs are extra skinny. This protects the secretary bird, because there is nothing there for a snake to bite.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Ornithology is the scientific study of birds.

### COUNTING FACT

Birds have four toes on each foot.



Their toes are as sharp as razor blades. Watch out—they kick, they stomp! They even kick snakes.



# SLOW

Rattlesnakes move slowly. They slither up to 2 or 3 miles per hour.



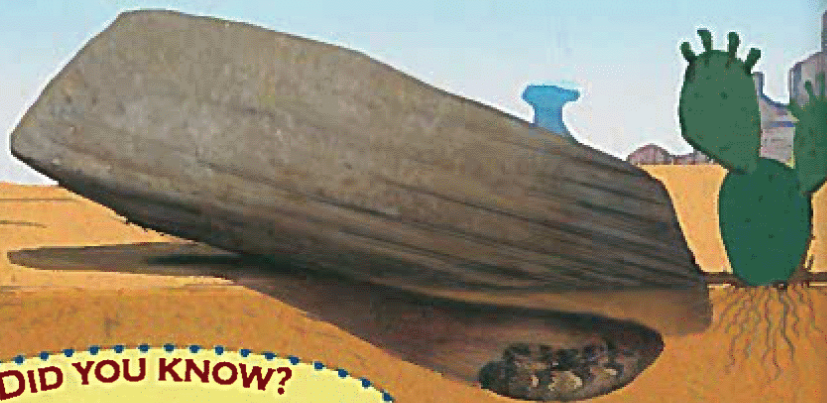
## SAFE FACT

Rattlesnakes can go underground to hide and be safe. Their home is called a den.

## FUN FACT

A den is the home of a community of snakes. A burrow is the home of one snake.

# HIDE LOW



## DID YOU KNOW?

Up to 200 rattlesnakes can live in one den.

# RUN

The secretary bird runs fast. It is considered a terrestrial bird. That means it mostly stays on the ground. It prefers to run.



## DID YOU KNOW?

It can fly. But it takes a while to get off the ground.

# SLEEP HIGH

At night, secretary birds fly high up in acacia trees and safely sleep. Lions, hyenas, and jackals can't get them in a tree.



# WEAPONS

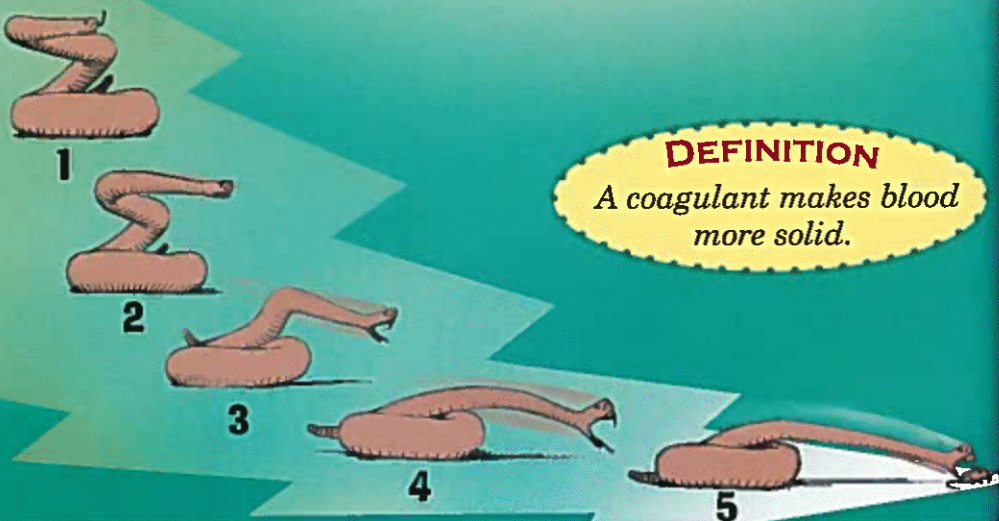
Rattlesnakes have fangs and poisonous venom. They bite and then inject the venom through the hollow fangs.



## FACT

Rattlesnake venom is a coagulant. It ruins the lining of your cells.

When it attacks, it is lightning fast.



## DEFINITION

A coagulant makes blood more solid.

# WEAPONS

The secretary bird has four great weapons. It can fly, run fast, and has a sharp beak and deadly claws.



## DEFINITION

A raptor is a bird that hunts and eats other animals.



It can jab with its beak, stomp with its feet, and kick with its long legs.



# WHO HAS THE ADVANTAGE?

RATTLESNAKE

SECRETARY  
BIRD

☐

**Size**

☐☐

**Venom**

☐☐

**Claws**

☐☐

**Legs**

☐☐

**Flight**

☐☐

**Speed**

☐☐

**Tail**

☐