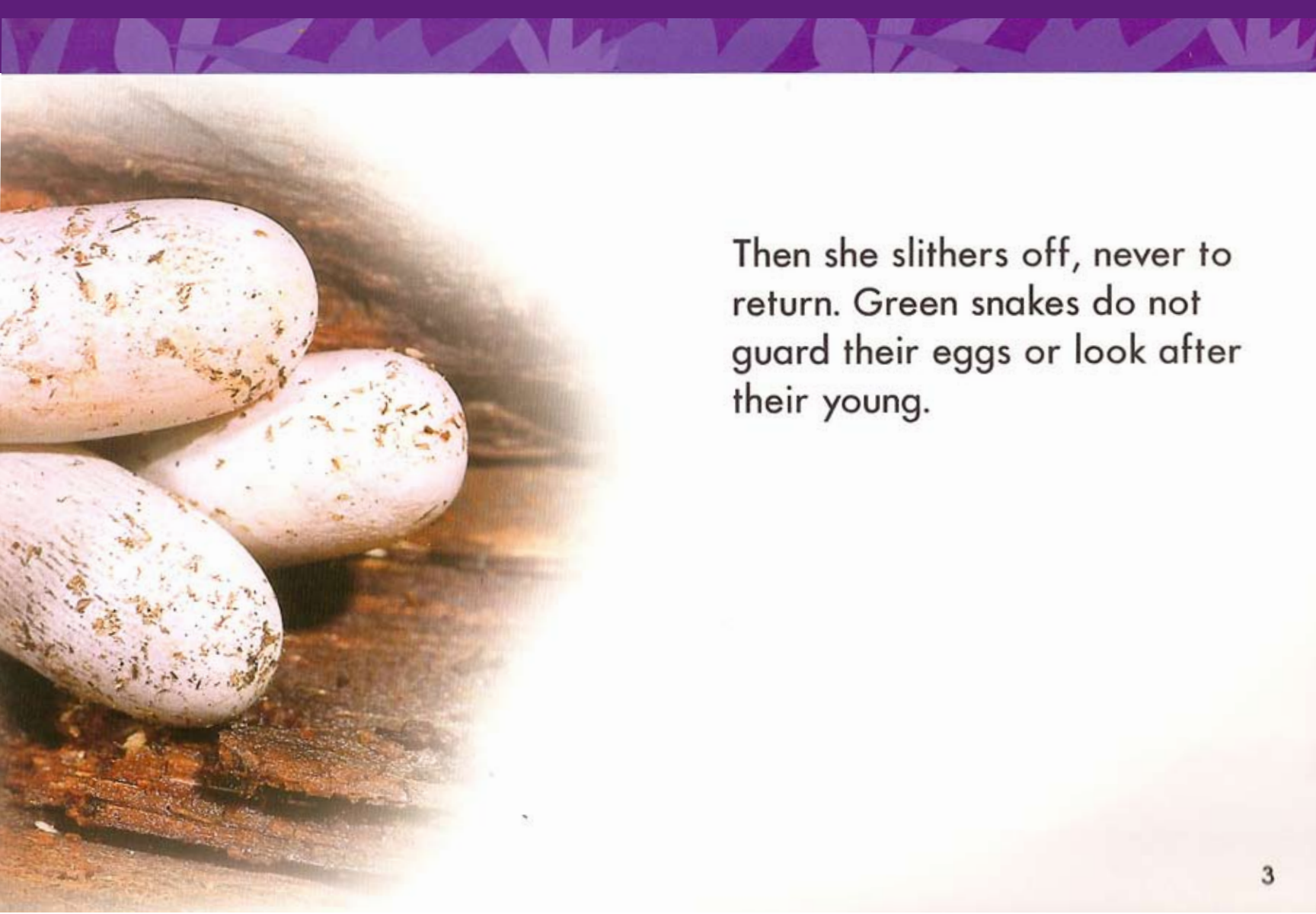


Some people are afraid of snakes. A few kinds of snakes are dangerous, but most are harmless to people. All snakes are graceful, fascinating creatures. This is a smooth green snake. You might find it in a garden or a meadow.



In the spring, the male green snake finds the female by her scent. They mate and then separate. Soon the female lays about half a dozen eggs in a protected place, such as a hollow log.

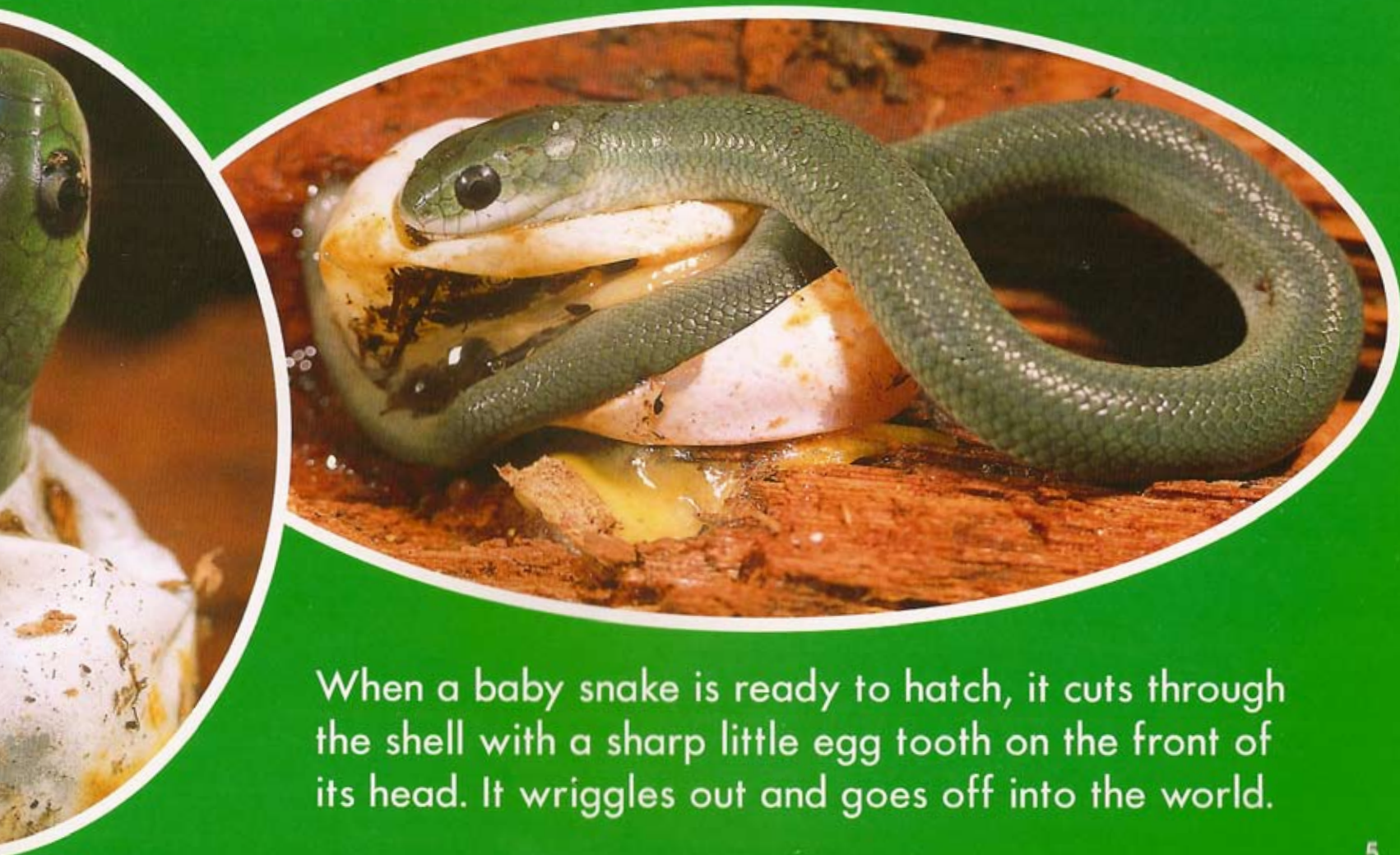




Then she slithers off, never to return. Green snakes do not guard their eggs or look after their young.

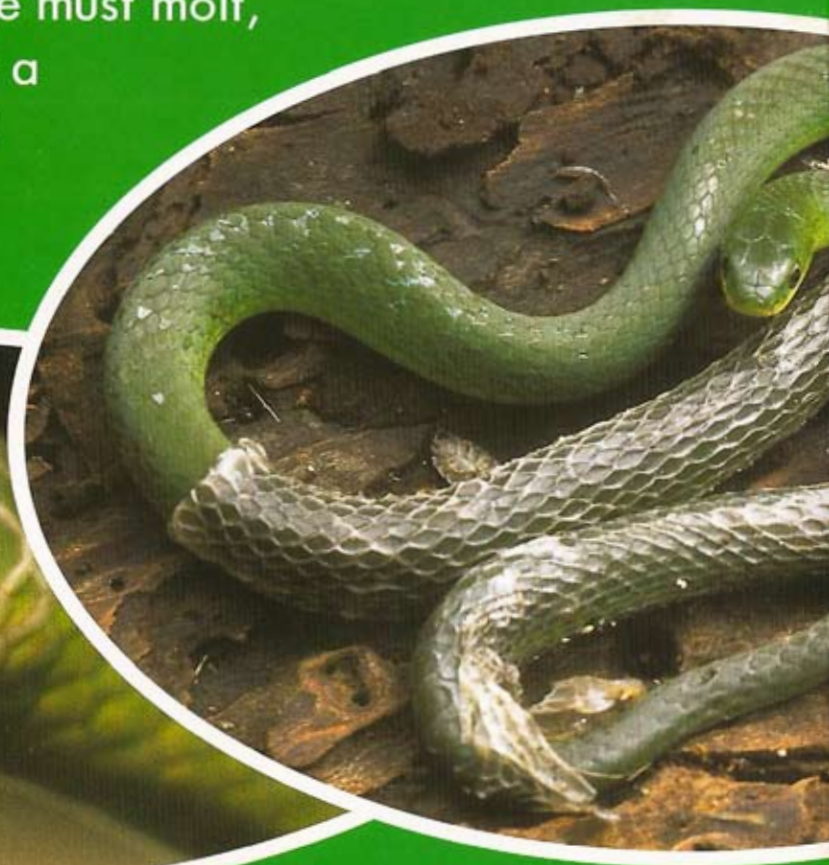
Snake eggshells are not hard like the shells of bird eggs. They are soft and leathery so air and moisture can get inside.





When a baby snake is ready to hatch, it cuts through the shell with a sharp little egg tooth on the front of its head. It wriggles out and goes off into the world.

A young snake grows fast, but its skin does not grow at all. When the skin gets too tight, the snake must molt, or shed its old skin. It rubs its head on a rough surface, such as a rock. The old skin splits and peels back over the snake's head.





With a little more rubbing, the skin comes all the way off. Underneath is a new skin that fits the snake much better—at least for now. When the snake grows bigger, it will have to molt again.

Like all snakes, the green snake has a skin that is dry to the touch. It is not slimy, as many people think. A covering of scales protects the snake as it crawls over rough surfaces. The scales overlap like the shingles on a roof.

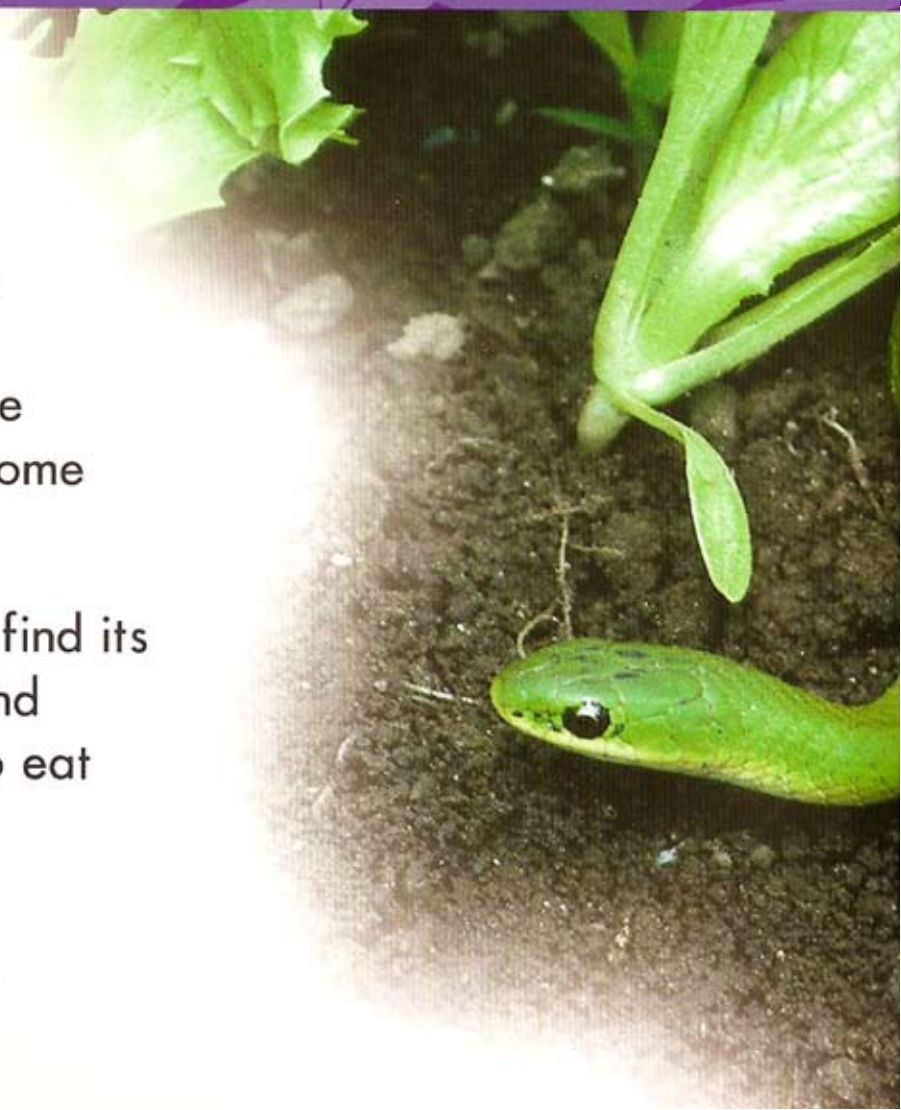


On its belly the snake has one row of extra-wide scales.
The snake uses these scales to grip the ground and pull itself forward.



A green snake likes to hide in green places, like this lettuce patch. Its color blends in with the plants. This blending is called camouflage. Camouflage helps the snake stay hidden so it won't become lunch for a coyote or badger.

Camouflage also helps the snake find its own lunch. The spiders, worms, and caterpillars that the snake likes to eat may not notice it lying there!





A snake never closes its eyes. Clear scales cover the eyes and protect them from injury. The snake flicks its tongue to detect odors, like the scent of a tasty earthworm. It smells with its tongue!

The snake strikes its prey and then swallows it whole.



The green snake spends the winter in a sheltered place.
In the spring the snake comes out and finds a mate,
and the snake life cycle begins again.

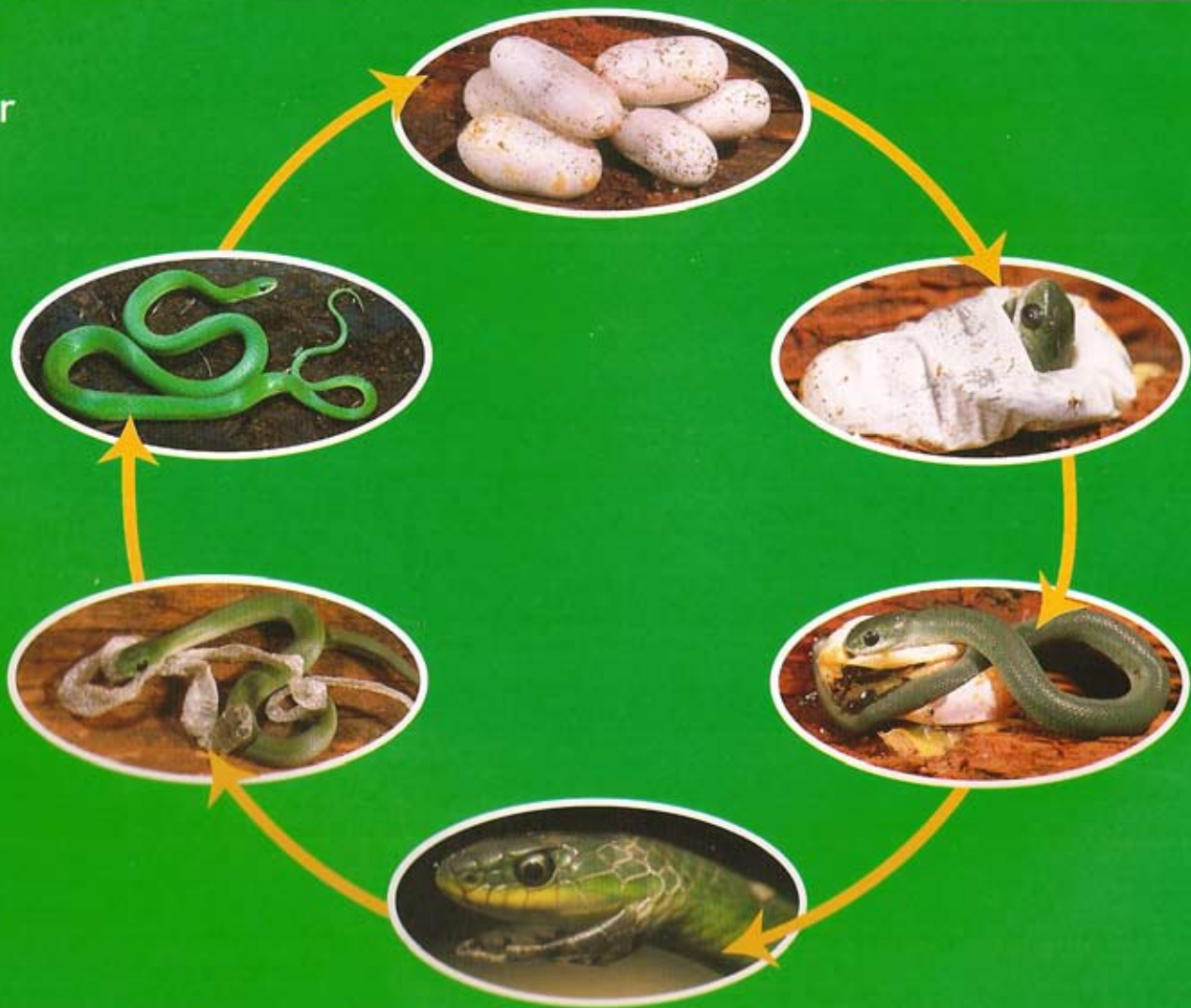


Can you put these in order?





Answer



CHOOSE FROM 12 TITLES IN THIS LIFE CYCLES SERIES!

CTP 3059 Monarch Butterfly

CTP 3060 Bean

CTP 3061 Sunflower

CTP 3062 Wood Frog

CTP 3063 Ladybug

CTP 3064 Chicken

CTP 3065 Jumping Spider

CTP 3066 Maple Tree

CTP 3067 Green Snake

CTP 3068 Hummingbird

CTP 3069 Horse

CTP 3070 Fighting Fish