

## Student #2

I went out to conduct fieldwork on October 16, 2024 around 2:30 pm at the IST woods / soccer field in the back of the school. My surroundings included my classmates, trees, insects, grass, birds, and animals. During our time we observed things that we heard, saw, and smelled. With one observation that we found to be especially interesting.

I heard an airplane passing the school, some kids from another grade talking, the rustle of the grass, the birds, and the wind blowing. I smelled the grass and the dirt. And I saw a snake, grass, trees, sky, dirt, flying insects like dragonflies and bees, mulch, a spider, and the clouds. The one observation that I found especially interesting was when I saw the snake by the rocks. This connects to what I know because there are a lot of snakes in Texas and since it is normally hot outside they will be looking for cool places to rest like some shady rocks.

This observation makes me wonder if the snake was afraid of us because there were about 4 or 5 girls next to the rocks and it decided to slither right through us. [NC State](#) says that “Snakes generally try to avoid humans.” This makes me wonder if this snake was behaving differently than the others, if the snakes just weren’t very threatened by us, or if it thought that it was worth it to go by us even though it was frightened. I’m not exactly sure what type of snake it was but [Texas Coop Power](#) lists some of the common types of both venomous and nonvenomous snakes. I think that this snake was only trying to get to the rocks so that it could have a place to hide and stay cool, but I wonder if it has been there before.

Snakes often like to hide close to water or heat sources, and this was apparent because right across the soccer field there is a medium sized pond that often has water in it. Another thing that could affect where the snakes live is their prey. [Critter Control](#) says that snakes eat things like cockroaches, rats, mice, moles, lizards, snails, toads, birds, rabbits, foxes, and more. [Critter Control](#) also says that snakes will follow mice into people’s attics, and they can climb up textured walls then squeeze through the tiniest gap to get inside. When they’re not in your house, [The Pest Rangers](#) say that, “Snakes will often cozy up near heat or water sources. These reptiles are often fond of small places, like boxes, and can be found near or behind appliances. Other species like to find high and out-of-reach areas, so be wary of any ledges.” This affects where they decide to hide and live.

An experiment that I could do to find more about this would be to track different snakes to find out where they normally go and how often they interact with humans, if at all. This could be used to see if they prefer rocky areas over leaves and grass, and to see how often they go to these places. It might also

help determine if individual snakes have a certain spot that they remember and like to go to, and if they will go through humans to get to their safe spot. I could track different types of snakes, and ones that are in the same area, and then compare them to each other to get a better understanding of how they behave. Using the [GLOBE Visualizer](#) on the land cover setting, I am able to measure vegetation where the snakes use as cover.