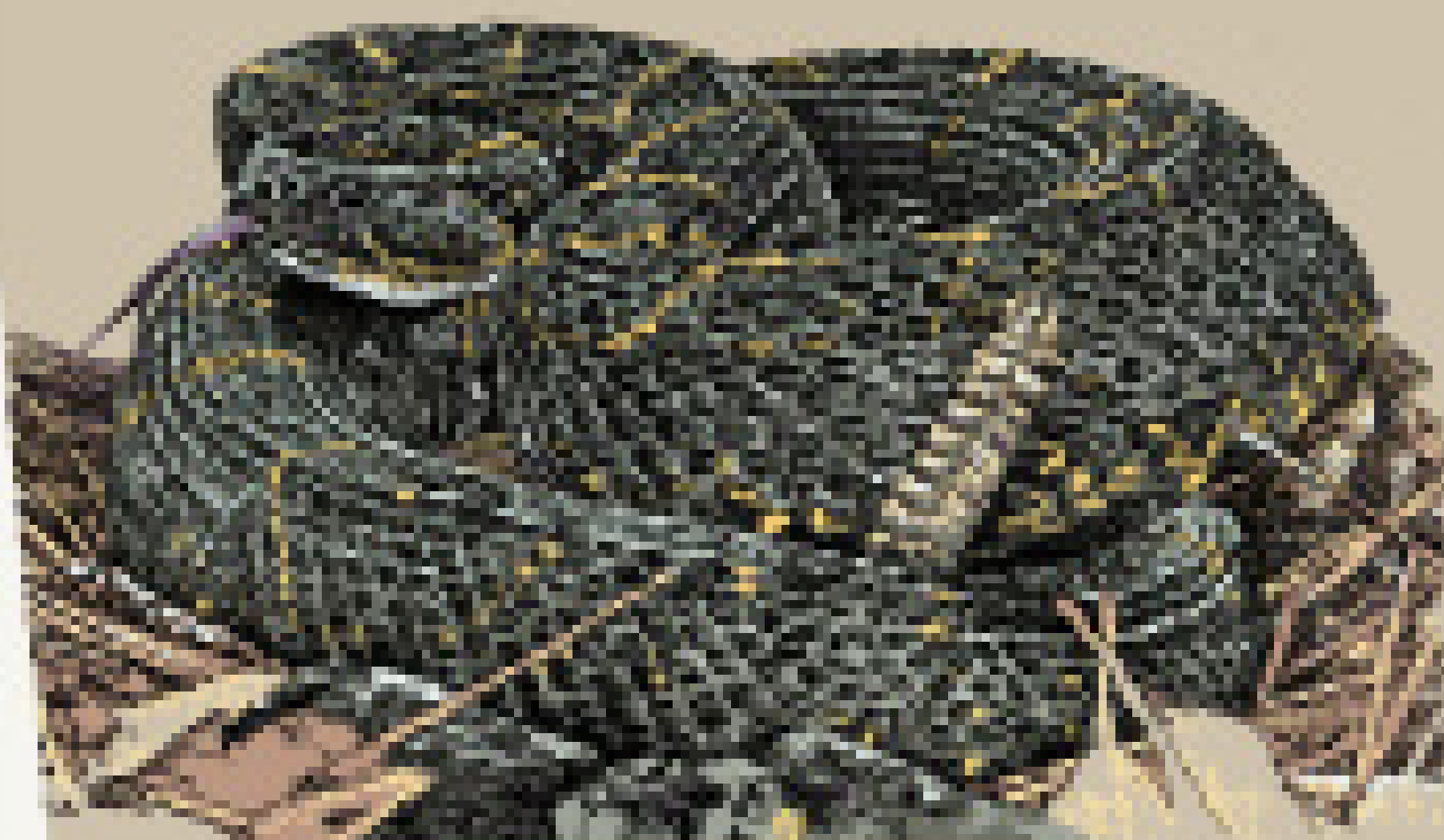


Creepy Crawly Creatures



Plateau Lizard

The small but stocky **plateau lizard** is most active early and late in the day, foraging through the undergrowth for insects, spiders, and even smaller lizards to eat. Rough, overlapping scales cover its body and many individuals have distinguishing light stripes down the sides of their back with a gray stripe down the center. Look for them sunning themselves on rocks, logs, or tree trunks.



Arizona Black Rattlesnake

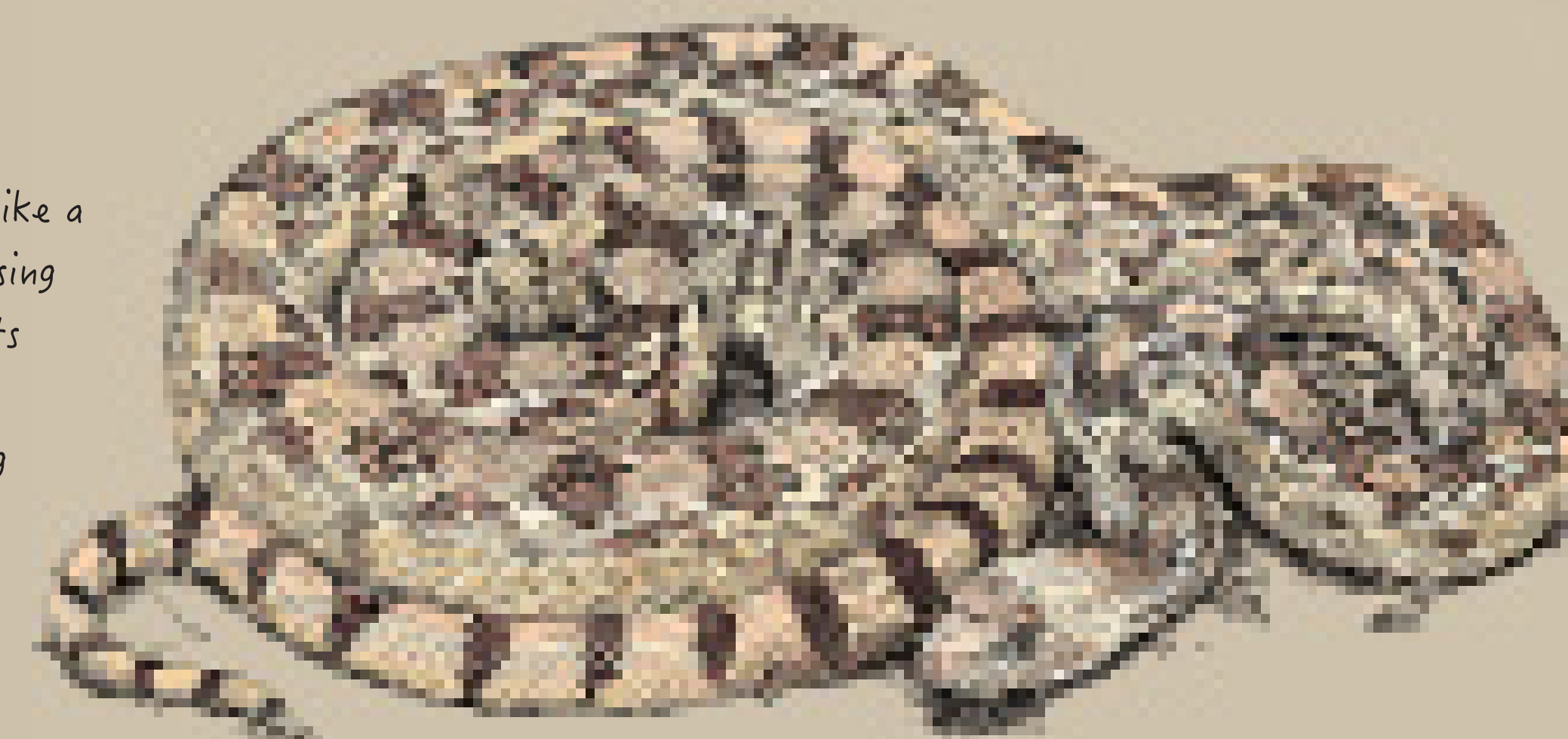
Be aware that the **Arizona black rattlesnake** lives here. This snake is black to dark gray in color and can grow to be just over three feet long. As a pit viper, it has heat-sensing openings beneath the eyes to detect prey, such as small mammals, birds, and other reptiles.



Sonoran Mountain Kingsnake

Red, black, and yellow bands ring the nonvenomous **Sonoran mountain kingsnake**. This colorful constrictor prefers steep, wooded canyons where it crawls and climbs hunting lizards, rodents, and birds. Don't worry about mistaking this snake for the similarly colored but venomous coral snake because the coral snake does not occur in Oak Creek Canyon.

The **common gophersnake** is known to behave like a rattlesnake by hissing loudly, vibrating its tail in leaves, and sometimes striking at an offender. Gophersnakes are constrictors however, not vipers, and are nonvenomous.

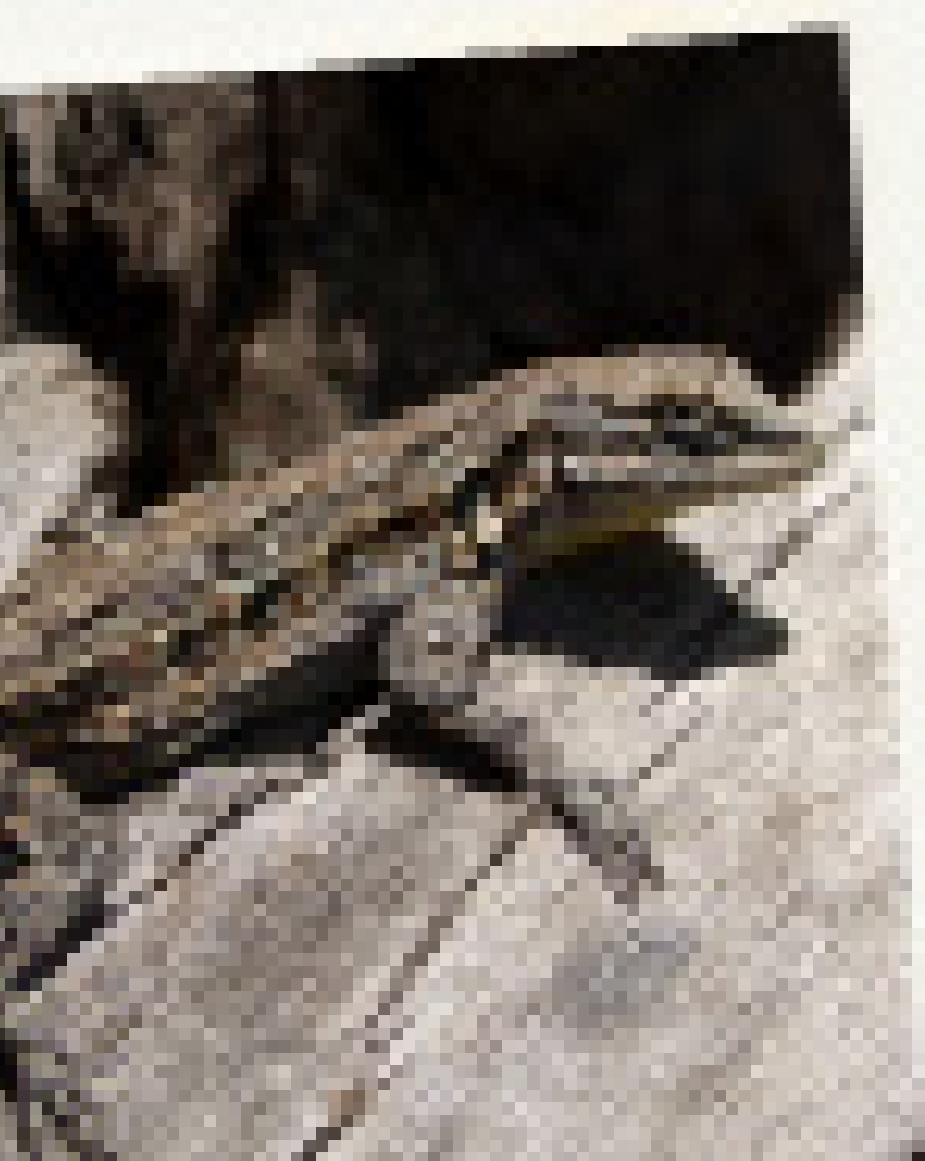


Common Gophersnake



Narrow-headed Gartersnake

The rare **narrow-headed gartersnake** does not have typical yellow or orange lines down its back like other species of gartersnake. This harmless gartersnake is often mistaken as a rattlesnake because of its slightly triangular-shaped head.



Ornate Tree Lizard

Have you ever been startled by a sudden rustling in the leaves?

As you explore Oak Creek Canyon you will undoubtedly discover some of the creepy crawly creatures that call this area home. As reptiles, snakes and lizards are well adapted to the dry heat of this region. Scaly skin protects reptiles from water loss as they move between sun and shade to regulate their body temperature.

Please do not harass, hurt, or kill any snake or lizard. They are essential members of this ecosystem.