



Adder-venture: A game of chance

Instructions:

Number of players

2 (one 'male' playing piece, one 'female' playing piece)

3 (one 'male' playing piece, two 'female' playing pieces)

4 (two 'male' playing pieces, two 'female' playing pieces)

Players decide who will be playing as a male piece and who will be playing as a female piece.

Playing pieces

Playing pieces can be made using a 5 cm section of pipe cleaner bent into a snake-shape. If there are four players (two male pieces and two female pieces) ensure that there are four colours but that the players understand which piece(s) are male and which are female. For example: the male pieces are green and blue and the female pieces are yellow and red.

How to play

Adder-venture is played with one die. Male snake pieces go first. They go first because male adders leave hibernation in late February. If playing with two male snake pieces, each male snake piece rolls the die and the highest roll goes first. Females go after the males (they emerge from the hibernaculum two weeks later than male adders). If there are two female snake playing pieces, each rolls the die and the highest roll is the first of the females to go.

Continue to roll the die and follow the instructions on the board.

At the 'Breeding' square, player(s) with female snake pieces can choose which route to take. Female adders do not reproduce every year as the process is extremely taxing on them. Females do not eat during the time they are gravid (carrying live young). This can weaken the female enough that she may not survive the winter. If she does survive, she may not be in condition to breed the following season.

Winner

The first player to make it back to the hibernaculum wins but play can continue to see if the other players are able to make it back to the hibernaculum.





North Pennines National Landscape

Discussion Points

What are some of the threats adders face?

Do females breed every year? Why?

Where do adders spend the winter?

Why are hibernaculum sites important?

Is it more difficult to be a male or female adder?

What are some of the animals that adders eat?

What is 'Dance of the Adder'?

What could we do to reduce disturbance of adders and adder habitat?

What is habitat fragmentation?

How can you be an Adder Advocate?

What are some other ways that you can help the environment?

What would you do if you saw someone disturbing wildlife?

Find out why adders matter, scan the code:

