Make a Snake Skin You Can Peel

NAME DATE

1. Before you peel: what do you think you will see?

Circle one, then finish the sentence.

The scale pattern will be on the **OUTSIDE** / **INSIDE** of my skin, because...

2. Draw both sides of your peeled skin.

The outside

The side that touched the snake

3. Measure it.

LENGTH RELAXED LENGTH STRETCHED LENGTH AFTER LETTING GO

Did your skin get permanently bigger? What does that tell you about a snake that is growing?

4. The rubber snake had a job.

A snake makes a layer of fluid between its old skin and its new one before it sheds. What was the rubber surface doing that the fluid does for a real snake?

5. Find the tear.

Look closely at your skin, with a hand lens if you have one. Find one place where it is thin, torn, or did not come off cleanly. Draw that spot and write what you think caused it.

The trouble spot

6. Think harder.

A snake about to shed goes cloudy-eyed and nearly blind for several days, because the same fluid layer fills in behind the clear scale that covers each eye. Most snakes hide for that whole stretch. Name one cost and one benefit of shedding, from the snake's point of view.

Cost:

Benefit:

IF YOU WANT TO KEEP GOING

Coat a second snake with glue twice as thick, and a third with a layer half as thick. Which one peels in one piece most reliably? Record what you changed and what happened each time, so you can tell which difference actually mattered.