

Venomous or Poisonous: What's the difference?

Venom

1. Venomous animals, like the Gila monster, bite or sting to inject their venom
2. The building blocks of venom are bigger than poison's, which is why venom needs an entry way (a bite or sting) into your body
3. In general, venomous animals live in warm places, like spiders, snakes, and sea creatures.



ouch!

A Gila Monster will bite a predator for up to 15 minutes while the venom is injected!

Don't eat me!



A Golden Poison dart frog's poison is 20 times stronger than any other Poison dart frog!

Poison

1. Poisonous animals, like this Golden Poison Dart frog, poison their targets through contact. If you ate, touched, or sniffed this frog, you could be poisoned!
2. The building blocks of poison are smaller than venom's so it's easier for poison to enter your body
3. Poisonous animals tend to have bright colorations to warn predators of their powerful poison

Check your understanding!

Take a guess: Are these animals venomous or poisonous?

Check your answers by flipping the picture!

1



2



3



Audience targeted: This would be a label for display in a zoo, specifically in a reptile and amphibian section of the zoo. The target audience would be zoogoers like children and animal lovers. This artifact is focused primarily on children, using bright colors, fun pictures, and big font with easy-to-understand language.

Specific purpose: Many people, including a lot of adults, do not know the difference between poison and venom. I have heard many people refer to rattlesnakes or scorpions as poisonous. This label would inform the general zoogoing public about the major differences between venomous and poisonous animals. The label highlights the difference between how poison and venom are administered and highlights animal representatives from each category (as well as an interesting fact relating to the animal's poison/venom).

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