**Reading: THE RATTLESNAKE**

A rattlesnal¡ke hunts mostly at night with the aid of a sensory device, which has no parallel elsewhere in the animal world. Between the nostril and the eye os a pit which detects heat (infra-red radiation) and is so sensitive that it responds to a rise of three-hunderdths of one degree Celsius. What is more, it is directional and enables the snake to identify the source of the heat with precisión. For example, it can detect the presence of a small ground squirrell crouching motionless half a metre away, even in total darkness. The snake glides smoothly towards it on its belly scales in near silence, Once within range it strikes, shooting its head forward at a speed of three metres per second. Then its huge paired fangs inject its victim with a dose of extemely powerful poison. It must surely be one of the most efficient killers in the world.

(Adapted from David Attenborough, Life on Earth, Collins)

1.- Underline the unknown words and write them down. Look for their meaning.

2.- Name three characteristica of living things that feature in this passage. Explain how each of these characteristics helps the rattlesnake to survive.