



ALL ABOUT SNAILS

Slide, glide, and explore life with these slow and steady garden travelers!

A NONFICTION UNIT

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MEET THE SNAILS!

Slide... slide... A tiny animal glides across a leaf—it's a snail! **Snails** are small, slow-moving creatures that carry their homes on their backs. You might spot them in gardens after rain.





WHAT SNAILS ARE LIKE

Snails are not mammals, birds, or reptiles. They are **mollusks**, soft-bodied animals with **shells**. Their soft bodies are protected by a hard, spiral shell. Snails have two pairs of **tentacles** on their heads. The longer pair has eyes at the tips!





WHERE SNAILS LIVE

Snails live all over the world. Many live on land in gardens, forests, and parks. Others live in freshwater ponds or even the ocean. Land snails like **damp** places where their bodies won't dry out.

FROM EGG TO ADULT

Snails begin life as tiny **eggs** laid in moist soil or under leaves. After hatching, baby snails already have small, soft shells. As they grow, their shells grow too. Over time, they become full-sized adult snails.



WHAT SNAILS EAT

Most land snails are **herbivores**. They eat leaves, fruits, vegetables, and plants. Some also eat **fungi** or decaying plants. Snails use a special rough tongue called a **radula** to scrape and chew food.



HOW SNAILS MOVE

Snails move using a strong, flat foot on the bottom of their bodies. They glide forward by making slow, wave-like motions. Snails also make **mucus** or **slime** to help them slide smoothly over rough surfaces. This slime protects their soft bodies.





LIFE WITH A SHELL

A snail's shell is its home and shield. If the weather is too hot or dry, the snail can hide inside its shell to stay safe and moist. The shell grows bigger as the snail grows. It protects the snail from bumps and **predators**.



HOW SNAILS STAY SAFE

Snails stay safe by moving slowly and hiding when danger comes. They can pull their soft bodies into their shells. Their colors often blend in with soil and leaves. Staying hidden helps them avoid **predators** like birds and frogs.



DID YOU KNOW?

Snails leave a shiny slime trail wherever they go. This slime helps them glide over rough ground without getting hurt. It also helps them stick to surfaces, even when climbing walls or plants.

QUESTION TIME!

1. (True or False) Snails are mollusks.
2. (True or False) Snails move very fast.
3. (True or False) Snails carry shells on their backs.
4. (Fact or Opinion) Snails use slime to help them move.
5. (Fact or Opinion) Snails are the funniest garden animals.
6. Where do snails live?
7. What do snails eat?
8. How do snails move?
9. What is a snail's hard covering called?
10. Why do snails hide inside their shells?



ANSWERS

1. True. Snails are mollusks.
2. False. They move slowly.
3. True. They carry shells.
4. Fact. Slime really helps them glide.
5. Opinion. "Funniest garden animals" is a personal idea.
6. They live in damp places on land or in water.
7. They eat plants and leaves.
8. They glide using their foot and slime.
9. It is called a shell.
10. They hide to stay safe and protect their bodies.



GLOSSARY

Damp — slightly wet

Egg — a round or oval object that a baby animal grows inside before it hatches

Fungi — living things like mushrooms and molds that grow in moist places

Herbivore — an animal that eats plants

Mollusk — a soft-bodied animal, often with a shell, like a snail or clam

Mucus — a slippery liquid made by some animals' bodies

Predator — an animal that hunts other animals for food

Radula — a rough, tongue-like part inside a snail's mouth used for scraping food

Shell — a hard outer covering that protects an animal's body

Slime — a thick, slippery liquid that helps a snail move and stay moist

Snail — a small, slow animal with a soft body and usually a spiral shell

Tentacle — a long, flexible body part that some animals use to feel or sense things

FUN WITH SNAILS

*Q: When do you know
a snail is lying?*

*A: When he tells you
he's not at home.*

