

Snails



What Are Snails?

Snails are parts of the mollusc family.

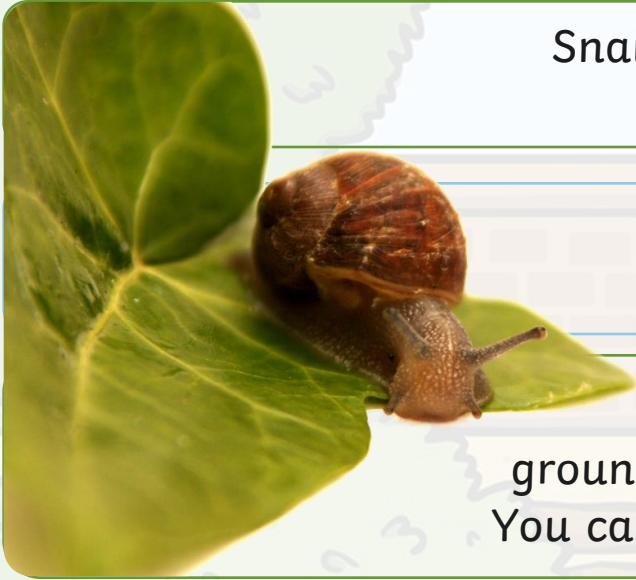


Molluscs are a group of creatures known as invertebrates. This means they do not have a back bone.

Other members of the mollusc family are octopi, squids, slugs and oysters.



Where Are Snails Found?



Snails can be found in gardens all across the UK and Ireland.

They are nocturnal and prefer to come out at dusk and at night.

Snails like moist conditions, when the ground is wet they can slide across it more easily. You can often find snails when it has been raining.

The Parts of a Snail



Snails have a shell on their back. This shell is for protection. When it feels threatened, a snail can pull itself all the way back into its shell.

Snails need to eat foods rich in calcium to keep their shell strong.

The Parts of a Snail

Snails have two sets of tentacles; a long set at the top of their head and a short set at the bottom.

The top tentacles have the snail's eyes on them. Snails also use their top tentacles to smell.



The bottom tentacles are used to feel and taste.

The Parts of a Snail



A snail's body is rough and strong.

The snail produces slime underneath its body. The slime helps the snail to glide along the ground without hurting its body.

The slime leaves a silver trail behind the snail as it travels.

Fun Facts about Snails!

Garden snails can reach a top speed of 45 metres per hour. This makes them one of the slowest creatures on the planet.

The biggest land snail is known as the African snail. It can grow to weigh 1 kilogram.

Depending on the species, snails can live for 5 to 25 years.

In France, snails are a delicacy that people eat. They are known as 'escargot'.



