

Slug and Snails Lab



Purpose: To observe live snails.

Materials: — Glass plate — Snail — Clean tray

Safety: Wash your hands before you handle the snails because the salts, natural oils and other contaminants on your hands can damage their skin

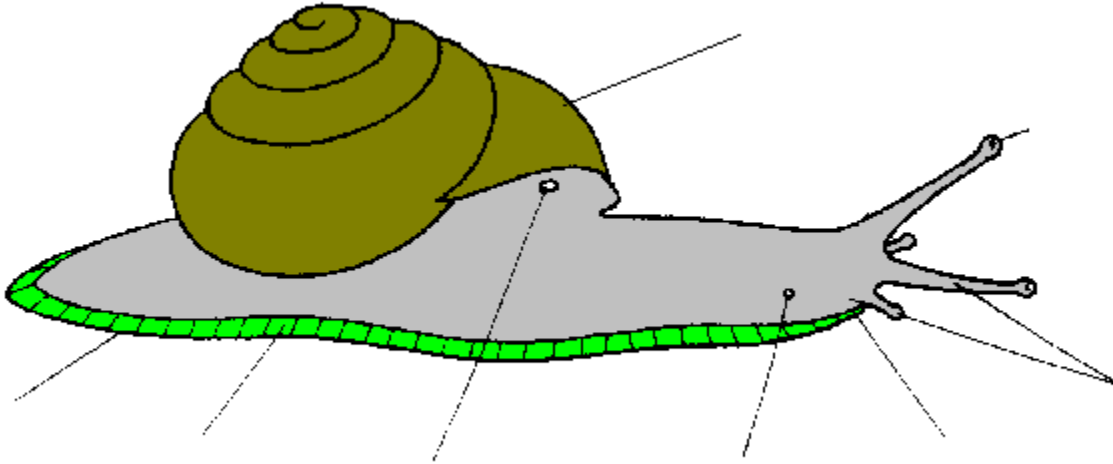
Please do not kill snails using salt. The thick goo you see on the snail after salt is put on the body is actually the fluid or blood of a snail that rushes to the skin's surface to dilute the salt. Dehydration is a nasty way to go.

Procedure:

1. Place it into the tray.
2. Try to identify the following parts on the snail:
 - a. Tentacles erroneously called antennae, these are two pairs of stalks; short SENSORY TENTACLES for feeling or smelling and longer OPTIC TENTACLES tipped with tiny, light-sensitive eyes.
 - b. MOUTH is located below the eyes on the underside of the head; equipped with tongue-like, rasping radula and a jaw.
 - c. MANTLE is also called the pallium, the mantle is fleshy lobe that, in other gastropods, secretes materials for making a shell. In most snails this anatomical feature is vestigial; however, it can serve as a key identifier for many species.
 - d. PNEUMOSOME is a small hole or slit on the snail's right side, leading to the snail's single lung.
 - e. FOOT is the broad and muscular structure that runs the full length of the snail's dorsal surface. The foot pushes the snail to speeds up to 0.025 mile per hour.
 - f. SKIRT in some species the underside of the Foot is fringed with a rippling skirt.
 - g. KEEL is the prominent ridge that runs along the back of some snail species. Also called the carina.
 - h. GENITAL OPENING is on the right side, covered by the mantle flap. Connected to three separate internal duct systems: one for outgoing sperm, one for incoming sperm, and one for the passage of eggs to the outside.
 - i. ANUS is under a flap on the right side of the mantle; channels waste from the intestine and kidney.
3. Label the diagram of the snail on your lab report and state the main function(s) of each part.
4. Touch the snail with a clean index finger, then touch a piece of paper. The paper will stick to your finger. To remove the snail slime, rub your fingers and hand together. If you try to wash it off, it gets slimier as it gathers water and makes it harder to remove.
5. Gently kiss the snail or lick the slime on your hands. How do your lips feel?
6. Place either a snail or a snail on a glass plate and observe its motion. Describe its motion in the lab report.
7. Gently place the snail back into its habitat.

Observations:

1. Label the parts of the snail. State the main function(s) of each part.



2. List a difference between a slug and a snail.
3. Describe how a slug or snail move?
4. Why were the snails sprayed with water?

Discussion Questions:

1. What phylum do slugs and snails belong?
2. What are some of the characteristics of this phylum?
3. Name three other members of this phylum.
4. What class do slugs and snails belong?
5. What are some of the characteristics of this class?
6. Name two other members of this class.
7. Where would you expect to find slugs and snails?



8. How do slugs and snails reproduce?
9. List 3 functions of slug or snail slime.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
10. What is the function of the snail's shell?
11. What is the main ecological roles of slugs and snails?
12. Why do many baby animals such as snails eat their own shell after they hatch?
13. Name 2 enemies of slugs and snails.

