

A garden can be home to many different creatures. Read this passage about one of these creatures and answer the questions that follow.

What's That in Your Garden?

While tending your garden, you might lift the lower leaves of one of the tomato plants and spot some small shells dotting the soil. Light gray in color, these spiral-shaped animals lie quietly in the shade. There they can stay damp and cool, safe from the bright light of the sun. You have snails!

② These small animals belong to a group of animals called mollusks. They have soft bodies, but no backbones. Snails move very slowly. They use a flat muscle at the bottom of their bodies called a foot. As they crawl, snails secrete a trail of slime. This helps them move smoothly and keeps their bodies from being damaged.

There are more than 40,000 kinds of snails around the world. There are both water snails and land snails. Most land snails like to live where the climate is cool and damp, but some snails live in deserts. Some water snails live in fresh water, making their homes in ponds or rivers. Others live in the saltwater of the oceans. Most snails have lungs for breathing air, but some water snails breathe through gills. They get oxygen from the water like most fish.

Snails come in many sizes. They can be smaller than the head of a pin or nearly one foot long. Every snail makes its own shell. Snails carry their shells with them wherever they go. As they grow, the shells can form into many different shapes, colors, and sizes. The

shells of most land snails are dull in color. The shells of many freshwater and saltwater snails are covered with bright colors and patterns. Shells can look like screws, turbans, helmets, or cones.

Most snails that live on land have two pairs of tentacles, or feelers, that stick up from their heads. Their eyes are found on the end of the longer pair of tentacles. The shorter tentacles are used for feeling around. Water snails have only one pair of tentacles. Their eyes are located at the bottom of these tentacles, close to the head.

Snails hatch from eggs. Baby snails look like their parents, only smaller. After they are born, snails begin looking for food right away. Land snails usually eat plants. Some water snails eat algae and seaweed, while others eat fish and even other snails.

Birds, frogs, toads, and insects like to eat land snails. Fish, ducks, turtles, and birds like to eat snails that live in fresh water. Crabs, fish, and whales hunt saltwater snails. To protect themselves from enemies, snails can pull their bodies inside their shells.

Land snails also hide inside their shells when the weather is hot and dry. They seal their shells to keep moisture in. Their body functions slow down. The snails can stay this way until the weather turns wet again. Some desert snails can stay sealed in their shells for up to two

years! Once the moist weather returns, the snails come out of their shells and begin looking for food.

Many land snails hibernate during the winter. They get ready to do this by eating as much as they can. Then they find a place to stay, such as under dead leaves or attached to a tree branch. There the snails seal up their shells and become very still. They spend the cold winter in hibernation. Some snails, like those in

hot places such as Florida, hibernate in the mud during the summer.

Snails help people by eating rotting plants and algae. Their waste helps make the soil better, and this helps other plants grow well. Some people like to eat some snails. The snails are taken out of their shells and served as food in many restaurants all over the world. So even the lowly snail has an important part to play in our world.

Diagram A

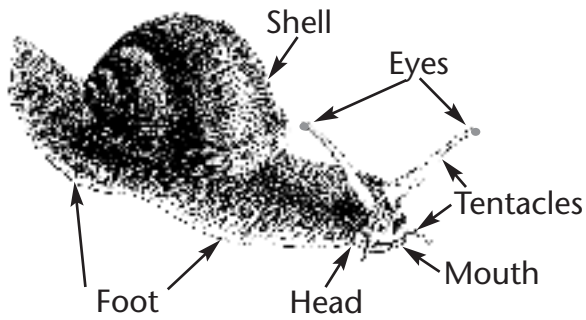
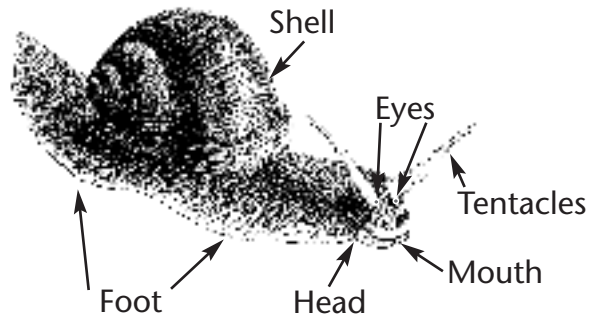


Diagram B



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Objective 1.03

1. In paragraph 2, the author writes that “snails secrete a trail of slime.” What does the word *secrete* mean?
- A crawl
 - B damage
 - C release
 - D smooth

Objective 2.02

2. Which statement tells one way that snails are useful to people?
- A Some snails eat rotting plants and algae.
 - B Snails have soft bodies, but no backbones.
 - C As they crawl, snails secrete a trail of slime.
 - D Many land snails hibernate during the winter.

Objective 2.05

3. What is one way that land snails and water snails are *alike*?
- A Both land snails and water snails have tentacles.
 - B Both land snails and water snails have special gills.
 - C Both land snails and water snails have colorful shells.
 - D Both land snails and water snails can live in the desert.

Objective 3.05

4. Look at the diagrams in the passage. Where could you find the slime that helps the snail move?
- A on its head
 - B under its foot
 - C near its mouth
 - D on its tentacles

Objective 2.04

5. What is another name for a snail's feelers?
- A feet
 - B shells
 - C slime
 - D tentacles

Objective 2.05

6. What is the **most likely** reason land snails hibernate during the winter?
- A to reproduce
 - B to store their food
 - C to stay out of cold weather
 - D to protect themselves from predators

Objective 2.04

7. What is one reason that snails secrete slime?
- A to attract a mate
 - B to protect their bodies
 - C to capture food as they move
 - D to frighten other animals away

Objective 2.04

8. What is the **main** purpose of this passage?
- A to encourage readers to learn more about snails
 - B to give information about different kinds of snails
 - C to compare water snails to other kinds of water animals
 - D to explain how land and water snails protect themselves