



Nature Tots

At Home

Slugs
and
Snails

Storytime suggestion

'Norman the slug with the silly shell' by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet.

Before you read the book talk about the differences between snails and slugs. Why might snails have shells?

If you don't have the book, listen to it read aloud [here](#)

Hunt for snails and slugs

Look under rocks, in the cracks of walls, inside and under empty plant pots, behind sheds and garages to see if you can find slugs and snails. Once you have some watch them and discuss these points:

- Look at the shape of the shell - can you spot the spiral? Can you see spirals anywhere else in your garden?
- Can you see a hole on the back of the slug? What do you think it is for? *This is the breathing pore, they take in air by opening and closing it. Compare this to how we breathe using our mouths and noses.*
- Watch how they use their antennae. What do you think they are they for? *The top pair hold the snails eyes, the bottom pair are used to smell.*
- Watch how the slugs and snails move. Why do they make slime? *Slugs and snails have one foot - a muscle that moves them along. The slime makes this easier for them, like when we slip on ice.*

When you finish be sure to put them back where you got them from as they need stay in areas that are damp and cold.





Have a slug or snail race

Slugs, snails a piece of string

Make a small circle on the ground with your piece of string. Place any slugs and snails you found inside the circle and see which one leaves the circle first. You may need to be patient!

Remember they won't like warm or dry ground, so do this on grass if you can. Again, remember to put them back where you found them when you have finished.

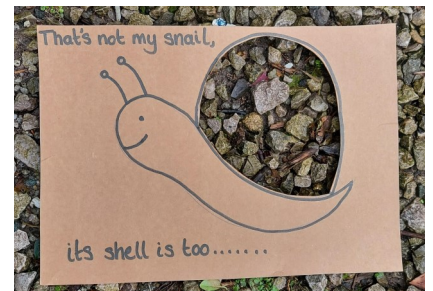
Snail texture hunt

Cardboard, scissors and a camera is helpful but not necessary

Find a piece of cardboard, it could be an old cereal box or other recycling. Draw a snail and then cut out the shape of its shell. Add on the words 'That's not my snail, its shell is too.....'

Now go outside and find different backgrounds to lay your cut - out onto. Each time talk about the texture you can see and finish the sentence for example: "That's not my snail, its shell is too bumpy".

See how many different textures you can find and describe. You could take photos of all your texture snails.



Make a snail or slug

Clay or Play Doh and natural materials

Once you have looked carefully at your snails, and slugs try making some out of clay or Play Doh. Think about what they had in common and how they were different. Find natural materials to use as antennae and as shells for your snails.

