

Sheltering snails

Snails can be hard to find in the daytime. Many of them shelter from the sun under rocks and stones. Here, the cool and the damp stop them from drying out.



◀ Two snails leave their stone shelter. Snails often return to rest in the same spot.

This snail shell is 1.8 cm long.



The shell

The snail's hard shell protects it from enemies because the snail can pull itself right inside. The shell also helps to stop the snail from drying out. In very hot or cold weather, the snail pulls itself inside its shell and seals the entrance with slime.



Snails have two pairs of stalks, called **tentacles**, on their heads. Each of the longer pair has a small black dot at the end – the snail's eyes.

Watch it eat!

What you will need:

- A snail
- A jam jar
- A vegetable (lettuce leaf, cabbage, etc)
- A magnifying glass

What to do:

- Collect a snail and put it in a jam jar with some vegetable leaves.
- Use your magnifying glass to watch how the snail scrapes away at a leaf. It uses rows of tiny teeth, called radula, on its tongue.
- Remember to put the snail back where you found it.



TOP TIP!

You could also search for snails under plant pots or logs and amongst ivy and other trailing plants.