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# ABOUT THIS BOOK

*Snailopolis* is a hands-on unit of study that integrates science, reading, math, language, and art through the hands-on observation of snails. Common Core Standards are applied in each activity and extension activities are included.

Each activity includes a Teacher Page 👰 and one or more Student Activity Forms. Teacher Pages include suggested time for lesson, materials for that lesson, and **SAY – DO** guidelines.







### Age Range Adaptable

K through Grade 4. Some activities have separate versions for Grades K-2 and Grades 2-4.



### Overview and Purpose

This unit was developed to provide students with opportunities to obtain, evaluate, and communicate information through the hands-on study of snails and their environment. Students participate in science, math, writing (creative and factual), art, and interaction with other students. They predict, observe, research, touch, experiment, and record information.



### Objective

Students will describe what a snail looks like, name its parts, identify three or more facts about snails, as well as compare and contrast unique characteristics of snails and humans.



### Process Skills

Science process skills form the foundation for the scientific method. Students will observe, communicate, classify, measure, infer, predict as well as investigate, collect data, describe, and evaluate.



### Curriculum Integration and Common Core Standards

This integrated unit includes math, science, art, writing, research, oral presentation, and discussion. Common Core Standards are referenced at the end of the unit.

# First Look: INTRODUCING SNAILS TO STUDENTS

## Set Up Desks

If possible, set up desks when students are out of the room. It is so exciting to see their expressions when they walk into the room with all the "mysterious stuff" on their desks! Before students sit at their desks, ask them not to touch items on their desks until they are directed to do so.

- Put snails in individual clear plastic containers with lids. Keep them hidden until the first hands-on lesson.
- If the lesson is a secret, cover the snail containers until you are ready for students to do their research.
- Lay out newspaper on each desk. Students can work in teams of two. There are some students who may be timid about touching animals. By the end of the unit you will have some students who are quite attached to their snails.
- Lay out the items listed on page ix for each student or team of two students on the newspaper (include items in materials list with the  $\sqrt{}$ ).

### Introduction

**SAY:** Today you are going to be learning about an animal that can lift ten times its own weight walking up a wall. That means that if you were as strong as this animal you would be able to carry one grizzly bear on your back, or 191 laptops, or a motorcycle, or 700 books, AND you would be able to walk straight up a wall with this 700 pound load on your back. Any guesses about which animal you will be learning about?

This animal is in most gardens. It is destructive to plants but people can eat it. Any guesses about what this animal might be?

DO: Give clues from Snail Facts (page viii) until someone guesses SNAIL.



**SAY:** Today you will be learning incredible, unbelievable facts about snails. What are some things you already know about snails?

Note: Lessons 1 and 2 can be done the first day if time permits.

## Lesson 1: PREDICTIONS AND FACTS

**TIME**: 10 minutes for introduction 10 minutes for forms

### Materials

- My Snail Predictions form (page 3) <a>F</a> for Grades K-2
- Predictions and Facts form (page 4) for Grades 2-4
- Pencils

### Introduction



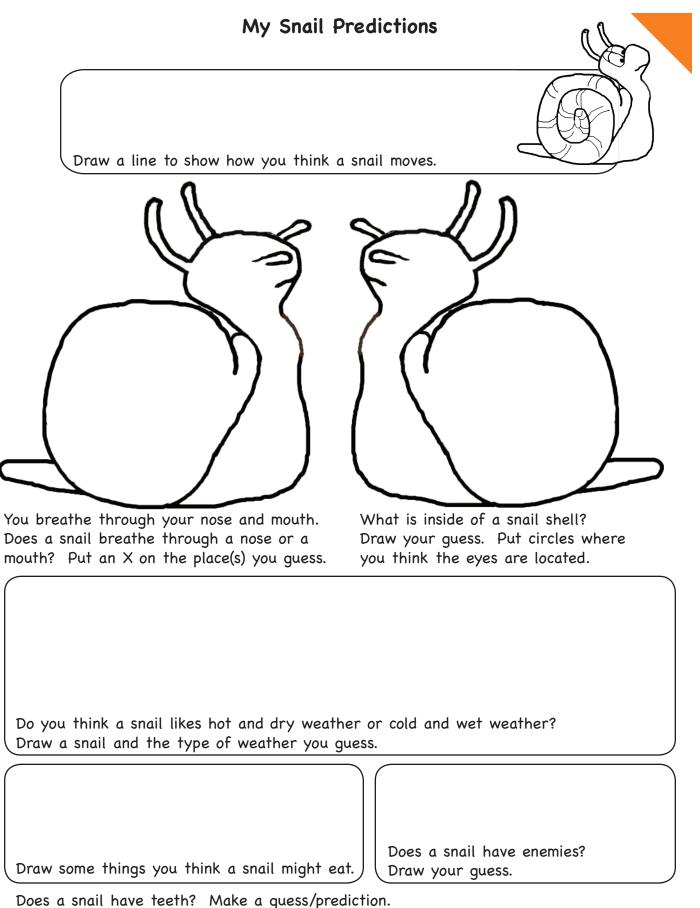
**SAY:** Raise your hand if you have seen a snail. What did it look like to you? Raise your hand if you have touched a snail. What did it feel like to you?



**SAY:** You are going to make some predictions or guesses about snails before you actually get your own snail. Guesses are not right or wrong, they are statements that we can test. What is another word for guesses? (Predictions.) We can study and find out information about our predictions.

### Note: If no one comes up with the answer shown in blue, the teacher should supply it.

- **DO:** Take out (or pass out) the grade-appropriate form, either My Snail Predictions or Predictions and Facts.
- **DO:** Read it over together. For non-readers, the My Snail Predictions form can be done orally. Read the questions on this form and make predictions together. Non-readers can also *draw* some of their answers.
- **DO:** Collect the forms after 10 minutes and save them until the end of Snailopolis. These forms will be used during the summary and evaluation.



Check one: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If Yes, how many do you guess? \_\_\_\_

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Name	Predictions &	Facts
Before looking at your snail, make some guesses/predictions about snails. Write your answers in the Guesses/Predict column. After completing all the lessons on snails, write down the facts in the Facts column. Remember that guess are not right or wrong, they are guesses! After filling in the Guesses/Predictions turn this form in to your teacher.	looking at your snail, make some guesses/predictions about snails. Write your answers in the Guesses/Predictions . After completing all the lessons on snails, write down the facts in the Facts column. Remember that guesses t right or wrong, they are guesses! After filling in the Guesses/Predictions turn this form in to your teacher.	ar answers in the Guesses/Predictions s column. Remember that guesses turn this form in to your teacher.
	Guesses/Predictions	Facts (fill in at the end of the unit)
Do snails move in a straight line or a circle?		
Do snails have a skeleton?		
Are snails nocturnal or diurnal?		
What do snails do in hot, dry weather?		
Do snails sleep?		
How do snails breathe (lungs, through their skin, gills, other)?		
Do snails have teeth?		
What is the approximate life span?		
Are snails carnivores or herbivores?		
Do snails have eyes? How many?		
Can snails hear?		
What/who are their natural enemies?		
What does the bottom of a snail's "foot" look like? In Box 1 draw your guess. At the end of the unit look at the bottom of the foot. Draw what you see in Box 2.	Box 1	Box 2

Snailopolis