

Blackbirds Class - Years 1 and 2

The work for this fortnight is inspired by snails. For some snail information, listen to the book 'Are You a Snail?' on the school Youtube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7-Qw9F73s5S2cecP3J8cfQ/videos>

Find out

Snails and slugs are quite similar and both belong to the group of animals called molluscs. Find out more about molluscs here:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/squid-snails-and-shellfish/>

Choose a really interesting mollusc to draw, label and write about.

Some animals like to eat snails, slugs and other small creatures. Find out about them here:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/insect-eaters/> Have you got any of

these creatures around your garden or near where you live?

Find out about food chains and how our garden creatures are all part of food chains.

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/food-chains/> Can you draw a food chain that includes a snail?

Explore

Have a look around your garden or when you are out and about. See if you can find any snails. What sort of places do they like to hide?

Snails move very slowly. Have a go at setting up your own snail race. Here is a clip of the Snail Racing World Championships:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xusFIWYo6C8>

You will need something smooth for the snails to move over, for example, a large sheet of paper or plastic. The snails need it to be damp, so it is good to spray the snail race track with water. They will not go in a straight line, so the best way to race them is from the middle outwards. Find a way of timing your snails - how long do they take?

Remember to put your snails back in their home habitat afterwards.

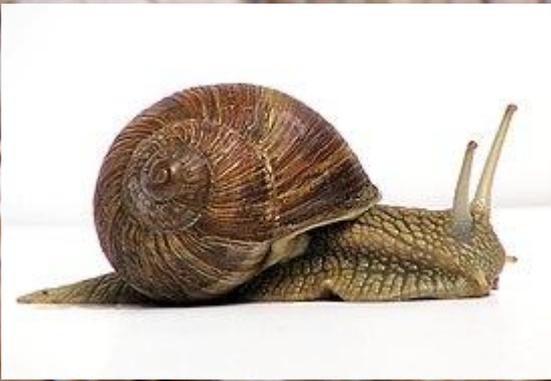
When you have finished, write a report about the snail race, remembering to let your readers know who was the winner!

Present

Watch this clip about slugs, presented by a boy from Scotland.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qDTZWdJaEA>

Could you become a wildlife presenter? Think about a creature you would like to tell people about. It could be a snail, but it doesn't have to be. Find out about your creature, plan what you want to say and make a presentation telling us all about it. You could use a phone or a tablet to film it, or you could even do your presentation in front of a live audience (your family).



Wonder

Snails are very unusual animals and are amazing to look at. Find a snail and quietly watch it as it comes out of its shell. See if you can spot how it moves and what the different parts of it are for. If you can, put a snail on a piece of glass or clear plastic and watch it from underneath. Snails are amazing! What animals do you think are incredible and why?

Create

Snail shells form in a spiral. Spirals are lovely shapes to use as inspiration for exploring patterns and arrangements. Andy Goldsworthy is a famous artist who makes his art from natural materials, but he is not the only person doing this. Here is some inspiration for outdoor art from the artists James Brunt and Emily Blincoe:

<https://www.architecturendesign.net/james-brunt-natural-materials-land-art-england/>

When you go out and about, look for things you could collect and use to make a beautiful piece of spiral art. You might use pebbles at the beach, leaves in the woods or make a collection of empty snail shells that you could use. You may want to leave your art for someone else to find, to make them smile. Remember to take photos of what you have made!



Make a Difference

Can you make a home for minibeasts in your garden or near where you live? There are all sorts of bug hotels or insect homes that you can make. This clip gives you some ideas of how to build a bug hotel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9-WzFWiZK4> When you have made your minibeast home, draw a picture of it and label what you have made and who might live in which part of it. Write a set of instructions, so that you can tell someone else how to make one. Watch your bug home carefully and see who moves in. Remember, we would love to see photos of what you have done!

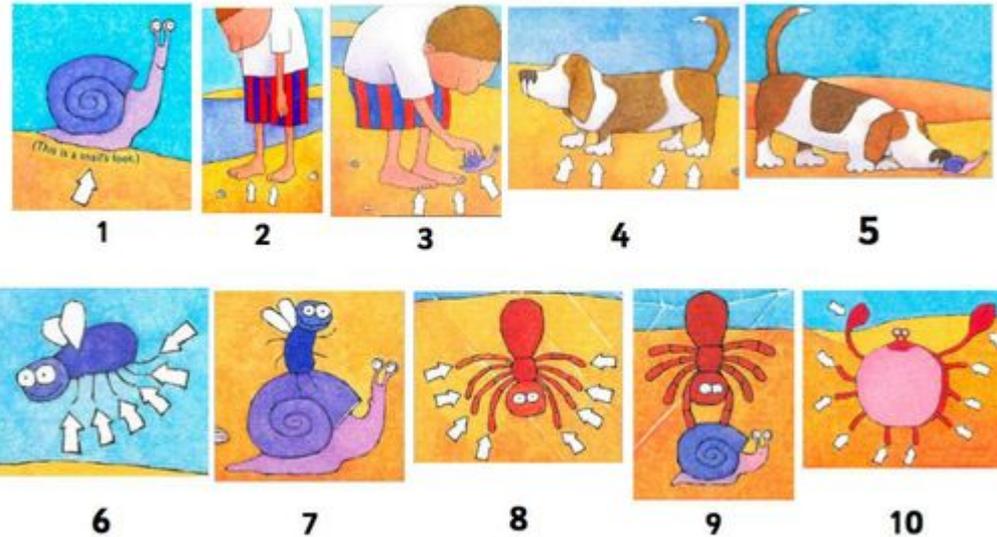
Your Choice

What else would like to find out about snails, or other small creatures that live in damp places or in the soil?

Animal Counting Investigation

Have a look at the book, 'One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab'. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDjp7rTXtsk>

There are so many ways to make different numbers using animal legs. What numbers can you make? Here are the numbers to ten to help you.

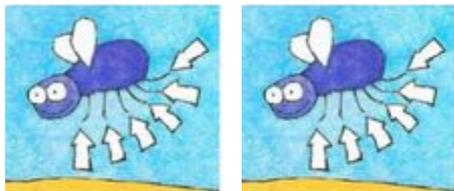


You might be able to think of different animals that you could use in your calculations.

Have a go at creating some different numbers or making some sums with different animals.

See how many different ways you can find to make 12.

For example,



$$6+6=12$$

For more maths activities:

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>

See how far you can count in twos.
How many people would you need to make different numbers in the two times table?



$$2 \times 4 = 8$$

Can you do the same for the ten times table?

Minibeast Spelling

Here are some useful words associated with minibeasts for you to learn. Make sure you know what they mean too.

Insect

Creature

Animal

Head

Thorax

Abdomen

Body

Antennae

Flying

Crawling

Wriggling

Spider

Ladybird

Worm

Beetle

Butterfly

Snail

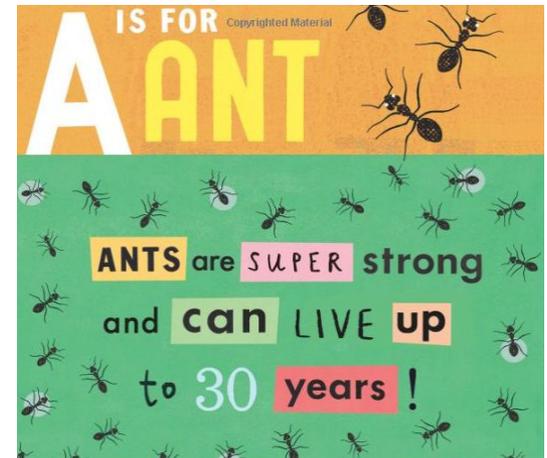
Alphabet Challenge

See if you can write the whole alphabet out in order.

Can you think of a minibeast, or a different sort of animal for each letter of the alphabet?

See if you can draw an alphabet chart with all your animals on, or make an alphabet book.

Here are some examples of animal alphabets from books.



There are lots of phonics lessons and activities available at:

<https://www.wandleenglishhub.org.uk/lettersandsounds>