

Snail hunting



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

Banded snails have different patterns on their shells, every one is different, a bit like a fingerprint. This is called variation.

Variation is an important tool that animals use to survive. The way they have changed or adapted their body to suit their location will give them a better chance of survival.

Scientists believe the pattern on the snail's shell depends on what sort of habitat they live in.

How to do a snail hunt

Get a Tupperware box or something that you don't mind having snails in!

Choose different locations in your garden or outdoor space to investigate. For example -

- At the bottom of grass and plant stems
- Under pieces of wood or stones
- Under plant pots
- In dead leaves
- Under any toys left out in the garden for ages!

Use the recording sheet below to note down what snails you find. There are different things you need to look for

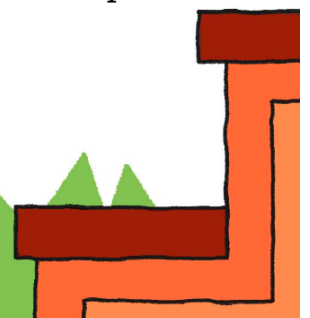
How to record your snails on the sheet

First decide what the main colour of the snail shell is underneath its stripes. Is it brown, pink or yellow. Mark this on your recording sheet in the right column.

Now look at the stripes (bands) how many can you see? There should be between 0 – 5 stripes on a banded snail, but there may be more. Mark what you think on your recording sheet.

Finally decide what habitat you found it in. There are some suggestions on your sheet but you can add more.

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What next?

Look at your snails, are any of them similar? Where did you find them?

Can you put them into groups based on their stripes and colour?

Bonus Challenges

Turn your snails upside down. Which ones have white lips and which ones have brown lips?

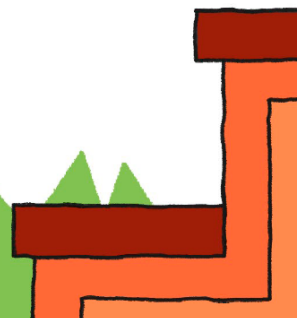
If your snail has a white lip it is called *Cepaea hortensis*. If it has a brown lip it is called *Cepaea nemoralis*

Download the Mark and Recapture activity sheet from our website. Mark your favourite snails carefully and let them go. Can you find them again in a few days' time?

And finally....

Don't forget to put your snails back where you found them!

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Snail recorder sheet



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Your name/s:

Start time:

End time:

What is the weather like?
(sun, rain, wind etc)

Where are you surveying?
(garden, park, street)

What is the main colour of your snail? Yellow/pink/brown	How many stripes does your snail have?	What habitat did you find them in? under leaves/stones etc	Notes

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