

CONSULT
4
KIDS

A Kit on Life Science
2nd Grade

Life Science

Life science is that branch of science that has to do with any living organism. In this kit, there are activities for kids to do that will give students a deeper understanding of the life sciences.

Snails are interesting creatures. The snail is a mollusk. The word “mollusk” mean soft, and without its shell, that is exactly what a snail is, soft. Mollusks do NOT have a skeleton. Some mollusks don’t even have shells. A slug looks a snail without a shell. Most mollusks live in the ocean, but some kinds of slugs and snails have evolved and can live on land. A snail shell is made out of calcium and its purpose is to protect the snail. Other mollusks have shells to protect them too.

Snail Race

Invite students to find several snails in the yard and to bring them to school. It is best for them to bring them in a plastic just with air holes punched in the lid.

Materials:

- Black construction paper
- Several box lids (one for each team)
- Paper
- Pencil

Create a KWL Chart (Know, Want to Know, Learned)

Know	Want to Know	Learned
Move slow Like to eat plants— especially marigolds Leave tracks when the move along Etc.	How they eat? What happens if the shell breaks? Does the shell grow bigger and bigger<	

Ask students what they know about snails. Write it in the column labeled “Know”. Ask students what they want to know about snails that they do not already know. Write it in the column labeled “Want to Know”>

You may want to ask the following questions to help kids think about what they know:

How do the snails move?

What do they like to eat?

Where do they like to live in your yard?

After creating the KWL chart, give each small group (2-4 students) a snail and a piece of black paper.

Ask students to watch the snail move along the black paper. (You will be able to tell how the snail moved because they will leave a snail trail.) After the snail has walked along, ask students what the snail trail tells them about snails.

Ask students to observe the snails for a while, remembering not to touch them. Ask the students:

1. Where are the snail's eyes?
2. How does a snail eat?
3. How does the snail move?
4. What do you think the snails shells are made out of?

Directions:

1. Divide students into groups of 3-4. Give each group a box or flat (like the ones that hold 4 six packs of soda)
2. Let students know that they are going to build an obstacle course for their snails
3. Let them know that they may use anything they want to create at least four obstacles for the snails.
4. Once they have built the snail obstacle course, they should "race" their snails.
5. Suggest that students think about what might entice the snail to keep moving along
6. Have the winning snail compete with the winning snail from another obstacle course.
7. Keep going until you have two snails in the finals.

As a follow-up activity, have students create a story about the snail who won the obstacle course. Have them include the observations that they have made about snails. Have each group share with the other students.



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