

Chapter 12**ENRICHMENT**

Use with Section 3

● Mollusks and Segmented Worms

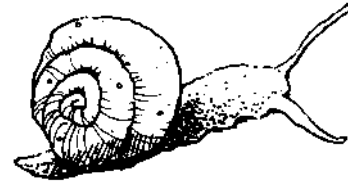
Snail Behavior

As you know from your textbook, snails are a type of mollusk in the class known as gastropods. Snails like damp, dark environments and can be found under leaves and near rotting logs. When searching for snails, go to a natural area in a park or woodlot. Use gloves when picking up snails. Handle them gently.

Materials



- old aquarium or clear wide-mouthed jar
- glass top for aquarium or jar lid with holes
- fresh lettuce
- snails



Procedure

1. Search for snails near a rotting log. Turn over moist logs, boards, or leaves.
2. Place the snails into an aquarium or jar along with woodland materials. Punch holes in the top of the jar for air, or place a glass top over the aquarium leaving a small opening for air.
3. Feed the snails fresh lettuce every day.
4. Observe the snails eating.
5. Watch for snail activity during daytime hours and during nighttime hours.
6. For one 24-hour period, place the jar or aquarium into a dark closet during the day and shine a strong light onto the environment during the night. Observe the snails' activity.

Observations

1. How fast does a snail move? _____

2. How long does it take a snail to eat a leaf of lettuce? _____

3. Were the snails more active during the day or night? _____
4. What happened when you changed the pattern of light? _____

5. From your observations, would you conclude that snails in their natural environment are more active at night or during the day?

When your observations are completed, return the snails to their natural environments.