



# SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM™

## Science Unit     *Explore the Wonder of Nature With Our Senses* Lesson 4         *Garden Snail Search*

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Grade level	K – 3
Class time needed	1 hour and 20 minutes
Delivery date	April 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2016

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1	Learn what type of habitat snails need.
2	Explore snails and their habitat.
3	Be curious and wonder about snails.

### SUPPLIES

- One yogurt container for every two students.
- Sheets of black paper.
- *Book: A snail's spell* by Joyce Ryder.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A common Vancouver snail is the Banded Garden Snail (*Cepaea nemoralis*). It is an introduced snail species.

Snails overwinter under leaves and in the soil. Once spring arrives the snails come out to feed. Snails move using their one large muscular foot, and munch on leaves and seedlings as they travel. They need moist conditions to survive. Their shell keeps them moist and protects them from predators. They mostly feed at night or on wet, cloudy days.

Snails secrete slime to help them move. To remove the slime from your hands rub your dry hands together until a ball of dry slime forms. If you get your hands wet the slime will grow and grow!

If you're quiet while you're observing the snail it may come out of its shell and stretch out its four tentacles. The tentacles help the snail sense its surroundings. The top tentacles have eyespots on the end and the bottom tentacles allow the snail to smell. Snails also have light sensors on their body, which is why they can sense you if your shadow falls across them.



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## THE LESSON

The Hook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read: <i>A snail's spell</i>.</li><li>• Re-read the book and act out <i>A Snail's Spell</i> as a class.</li></ul>
Hands-on Activity 1	<b>Create temporary snail habitat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Talk about respect and care for animals.</li><li>• Give a yogurt container to each pair of students.</li><li>• What habitat do snails need?</li><li>• Create a mini-snail habitat with leaves.</li></ul>
Hands-on Activity 2	<b>Search for a snail</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In a garden or schoolyard, where do snails live?</li><li>• Collect and observe a snail.</li><li>• Place the snail on black paper to see its slime trail.</li><li>• Carefully return the snail to where it was found.</li></ul>
Wrap Up	<b>Wonder wrap-up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do you wonder about snails?</li></ul>

## VOCABULARY

Habitat	The natural environment of a plant, animal or other organism.
Tentacles	Snails have four tentacles to help them sense things. The upper two have eyespots at the end and the lower two are for smelling.
Breathing Pore	The breathing pore is also called a pneumostome. It is how the snail breathes. It is located on the side of the snail behind the tentacles and looks like an indented oval.
Senses	Our sense of sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste help us observe our surroundings.

## REFERENCES

Ryder, J. 1998. *The snail's spell*. Puffin Books. New York, New York.

Forsyth, R. 2014. Introduction to the Land Snails of BC. In Klinkenberg, Brian. (Editor) 2014. E-Fauna BC: Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia [efauna.bc.ca]. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.  
<http://linnet.geog.ubc.ca/efauna/Atlas/Atlas.aspx?sciname=Cepaea%20nemoralis>

Forsyth, R. 2004. *Land snails of British Columbia handbook*. Royal BC Museum, Victoria.