



# **Marvellous Mud Snails**

## **Resource Pack for Primary Schools**



# Marvellous Mud Snails



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### Image Credits

#### **‘Who Am I’ Game**

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Dragonfly © Wiki/ Quartl  
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Pond Skater © Darius Bauzys  
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#### **Food Chain Game**

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**Pond Mud Snail Cover** © Paul Baker

## LESSON PLAN ONE

### Activity 2: 'Who am I?'



Mayfly Nymph



Adult Mayfly



Dragonfly Nymph



Adult Dragonfly





Midge Larva



Adult Midge



Whirligig Beetle

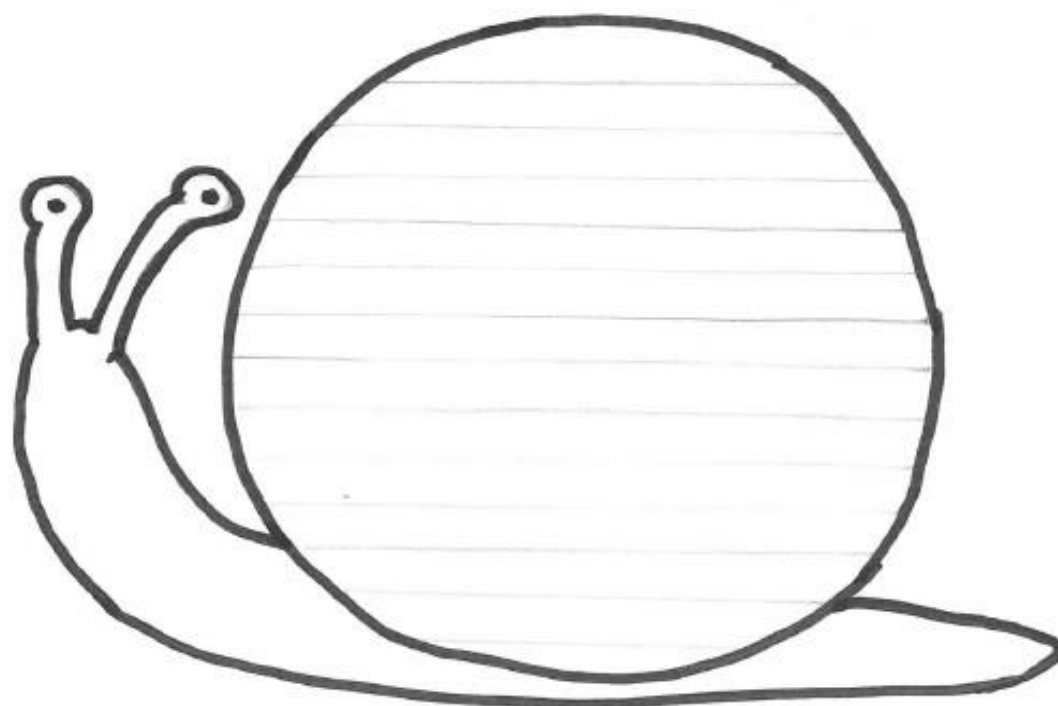
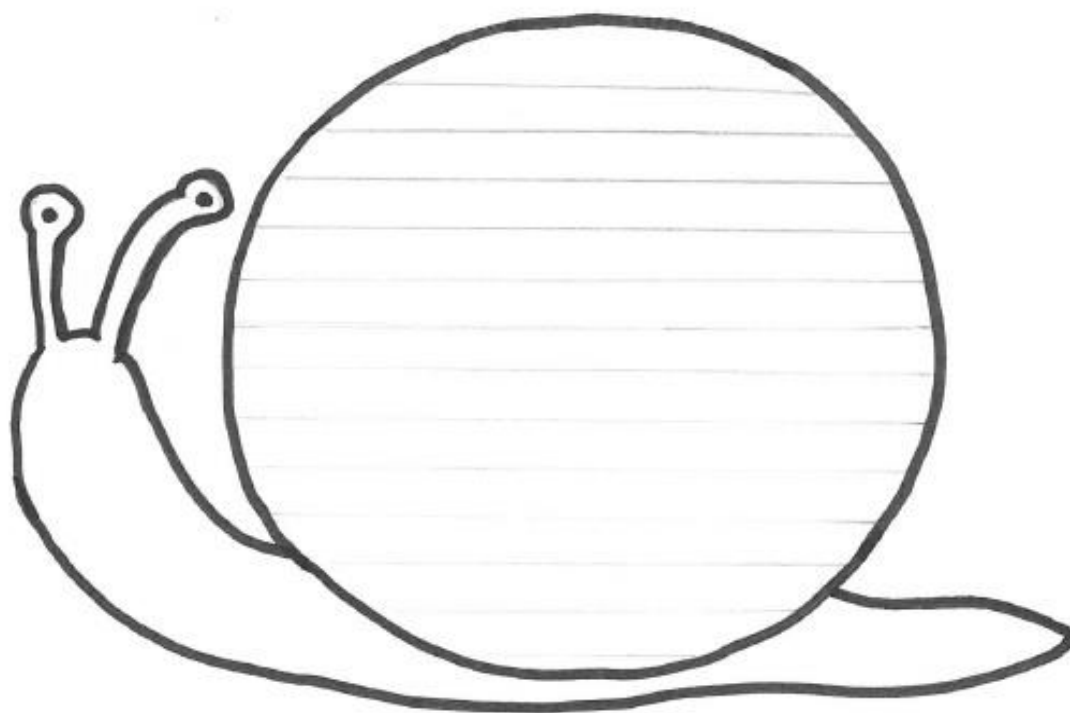


Pond Skater



Ramshorn Snail

**Activity 3:**  
**Snail Facts in a Shell**



## LESSON PLAN TWO

### Activity 1

#### Pond Dipping – OPAL Results Sheet

Full sheet and other resources to download found here –

<https://www.opalexplornature.org/WaterSurvey>

### Example

### Activity 3: How healthy is the pond?

**14.** Record the different types of animals you have found. You can use the Freshwater Invertebrate Identification Guide to help. Use your results to calculate the Pond Health Score.

Type of pond animal	✓	Quality index	Score
Cased caddisfly larvae		Score 10 if you found cased caddisfly larvae	
Dragonfly larvae		Score 10 if you found dragonfly larvae	
Alderfly larvae		Score 10 if you found alderfly larvae	
Damselfly larvae		Score 10 if you found damselfly larvae	
Caseless caddisfly larvae		Score 10 if you found caseless caddisfly larvae	
Mayfly/stonefly larvae		Score 5 if you found mayfly/stonefly larvae	
Water beetles and/or larvae		Score 5 if you found water beetles	
Water bugs		Score 5 if you found water bugs	
Pond skaters		Score 5 if you found pond skaters	
Water shrimps		Score 5 if you found water shrimps	
Water snails		Score 1 if you found water snails	
Water slaters		Score 1 if you found water slaters	
Worm-like animals		Score 1 if you found worm-like animals	
Total Pond Health Score =			

### Back in Classroom –

- Draw your own 'SuperBug' Worksheet
- Draw 'My Favourite Water Bug' Worksheet



# SUPERBUG



## My Favourite Water Bug



What's the name of your favourite water bug? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you sketch it below?

Bonus Q – What is an invertebrate?

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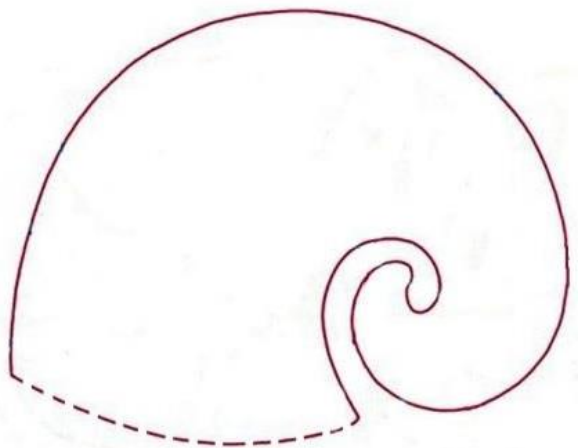
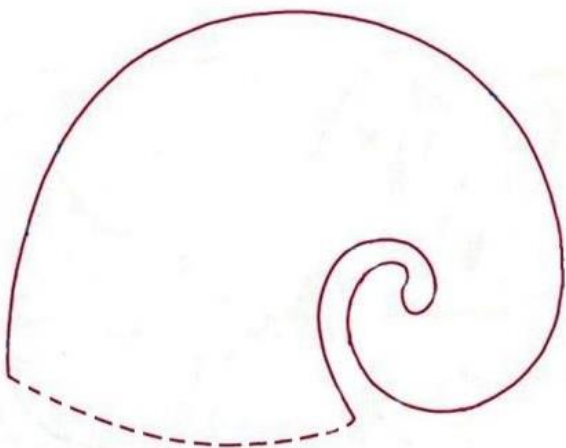
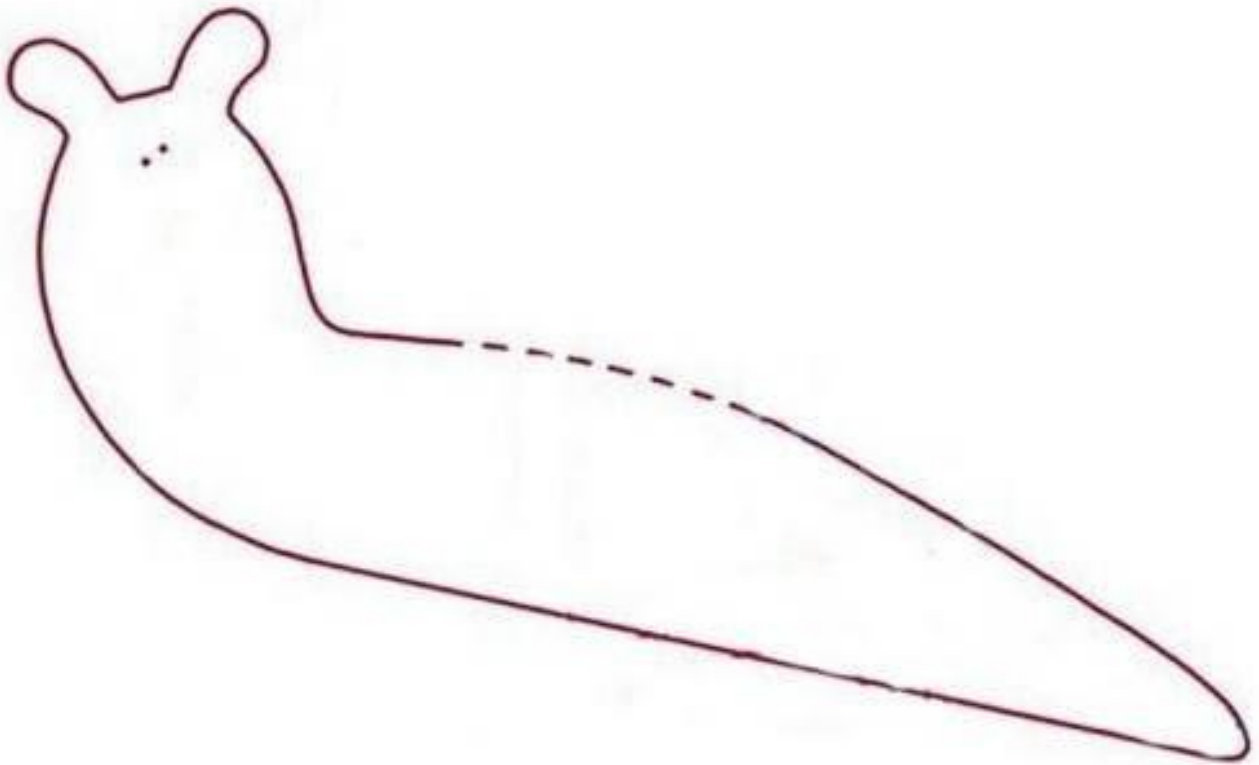
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## LESSON PLAN THREE

### Activity 1:

#### Pin the Shell on the Snail

- Cut the body of the snail, colour and stick to whiteboard. Print shells for each child to colour and stick with blu-tac.



# A Guide for Happy Snails

## **Cleaning Routine**

- ✓ Using bottled still water or rainwater collected from a water butt, you can fill the second tank with about 4cm of water.
- ✓ You can rotate between tanks each time.
- ✓ With the clean water poured in, very gently scoop out the snails one at a time with a plastic spoon or fingers and place into the new clean water.
- ✓ If there are babies hatching you will have to be very careful and may have to get a teacher to help. You can also leave the babies in the tank and move the adults to a new tank.
- ✓ Watch out for any new egg clumps that might have appeared, they are quite sturdy and can also be lifted by hand into the clean water or leave them in place and wipe around them.
- ✓ Carefully pour away the old, dirty water and wipe ready for use the next time you clean or fill up with water if you have left baby snails or eggs in the tank.

## **Making Snail Dinner**

- ✓ Prepare the lettuce or cress by washing under the tap and tearing the lettuce into pieces about 2-3cm.
- ✓ Put around 3-4 pieces (lettuce or cress) into the tank and watch as the snails come to feed. Make sure not to over feed, you'll see when the food is gone and when it is time to feed again.

## **Temperature**

- ✓ Please make sure that the snails are not too hot! A nice medium classroom temperature is ideal, below 23°C.
- ✓ Don't keep the tank in direct sunlight or next to a radiator.

## Information to record

- The Mud Snail Recording Sheet will have been attached in the email with your pack.
- You can also create your own large-scale wall recording sheet. Make sure you have headings for the following measurements:

✓ Date and Time

✓ How many snails

✓ Tank temperature

✓ If there are any egg clumps, and if so how many?

✓ How many pieces of food were given and how many are left?

✓ If any babies have hatched and if so how many?

✓ Any behaviour seen from the snails (i.e spent a lot of time out of the water, moved fast, spent a lot of time floating).

Especially recording anything unusual.

✓ If the tank was cleaned out that week?



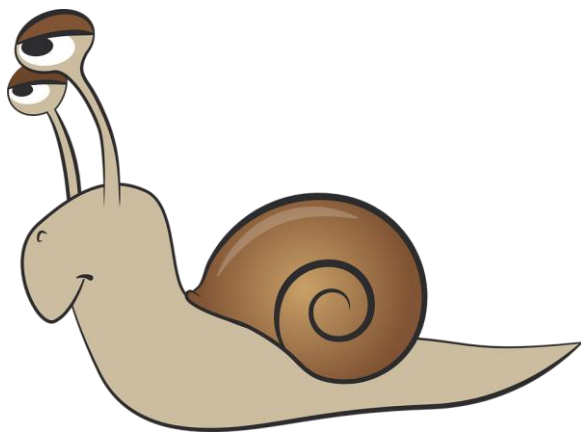
## Extra Activity

### Food Chain Guessing Game

**PRODUCERS - Shining Pond Weed and Lily Pad**



**HERBIVORES - Pond Snail and Freshwater Mussel**



**CARNIVORES - Diving Beetle and Beetle Larva**



**Notes:**

Thanks to our funders and partners for making this project possible.  
This pack has been produced as part of the Marvellous Mud Snails  
project by Buglife Scotland, for more information and to find out  
about other projects visit [www.buglife.org.uk](http://www.buglife.org.uk)

Cover Image: © Paul Baker



Clackmannanshire  
Council



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