

Home Learning Nursery

Activity – Create a snail habitat



- 1. A plastic produce carton-** the kind that berries come in. These have ample holes for air circulation, yet your snail won't escape!
- 2. A disposable plastic drinking cup (any size).** You will need to trim down the cup with scissors to create a shallow saucer (3).
- 4. Fresh leaves from a nearby tree/plant.**
- 5. Stones of various sizes.** Be sure to have one will fit into your water saucer- not too big/not too small.
- 6. Mulch, bark or twigs.**
- 7. A small plastic plant container.** Be sure it's the right size that you can close the lid of your berry container!
- 8. Scissors** (for step 2), **water**, and **a tray to place the habitat on** (so that it catches any dirt/water that may spill out!)



Method

1. Start with your clean, empty berry container. Place the water saucer, and begin to add in large pieces of bark/mulch.
2. Place a large stone in the water saucer. This will allow your snail to crawl in and out of the water. Sometimes he just hangs on the side of the rock to take a sip from the water. Without the stone, you may end up with a drowned snail!
3. Place the plant container on its side. Put some stones or mulch in the bottom to weigh it down. Snails love cool, shady places, so this will be a nice little shelter for him (or her!) Fill the container with a nice amount of stones, bark, and leaves.
4. Fill the saucer with water, and sprinkle water over everything in the habitat. You will need to freshen the water every couple of days and add some fresh leaves. Make sure your lid will close, and you are ready to put your snail in his new home! Place the habitat on the tray and find a nice cool, shady spot to keep it.

Food

Snails can be feed most fruit and vegetables (hard vegetables need to be parboiled). Carrots can be grated.

Snails also eat bark, fresh leaves, decaying matter, and the chalk from limestone rock (this is good for their shells!)

Remember to remove food when replacing with fresh food to avoid rotten fruit and vegetable and bad smells.

Water can be provided in a shallow lid, a pringle crisp lid is a good depth although you can lightly spray water into the container.

Fun Facts

- Snails are related to shellfish.
- Garden snails have over 14,000 teeth.
- Snails like a drop of beer, they are attracted by the yeast, it's good for them but only in very small amounts.

**Have fun watching the snail crawl all around!
They are really quite fascinating!**

