

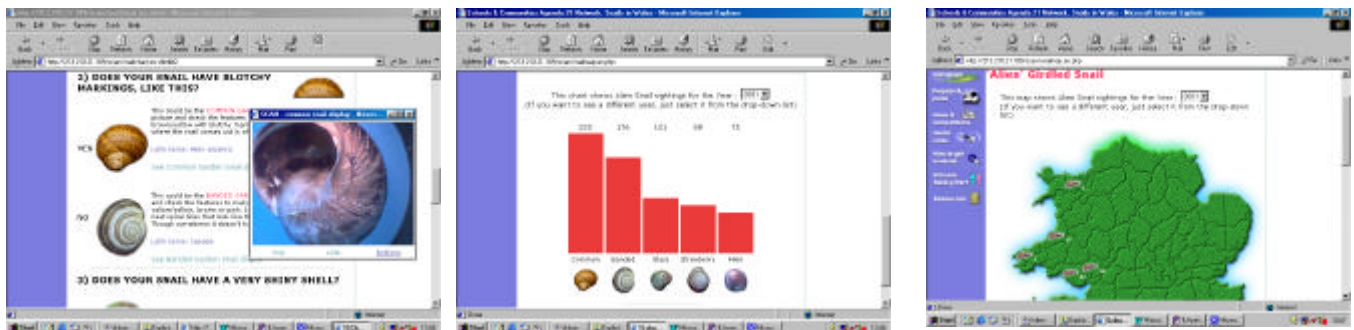


An ideal hands-on activity to bring alive KS2:
Life Processes and Living Things.

Snail Search

Do you have 'alien invaders' living in your schoolyard?

Take part in this National study to find the 'alien invader' snail! Use the free identification charts enclosed to gain 1st hand experience in identifying local species within your own school grounds. Contribute and collect data for a real experiment taking part at the National Museum of Wales. Visit the Snail Search website (www.scan-online.org) for more information and add your schools results to our web pages!



Using this pack

1) Introduction - Read through the sheets in this pack and get to know the different snails on display. Photocopy each pupil a copy of the snail search leaflet. Use the snail map and chart to explain to your class where the 'alien' snail comes from and why it is important to look for it. Use the snail photographs and checklist to introduce each snail.

2) Live Snail Activity - Ask your pupils to collect snails from around the school grounds or from their backyards as part of a homework session. Advise pupils to collect the snails in old margarine tubs, with air holes and to provide a few dandelion leaves or other weeds for the snails to eat. Ask them to remember exactly where the snails were collected from, as they must be returned to their homes at the end of the day.

3) Returning Your Results - Ask your pupils to identify their snails using the snail chart and to keep a record of what snails they have found in the record box provided. If the records have been collected from individual gardens then that address can be put on the form, as all the records will be data protected. If you have internet access, please ask your pupils to add their results to our webpages – (add one pooled record for your school and additional ones for individual gardens). Please thank your pupils for collecting useful scientific information for the National Museums & Galleries of Wales.

Trouble Shooting Tips

Young Snails



When Banded Snails or Common Garden Snails are young they are smaller than a five pence piece – which is different to what it says in the Snail Search Sheet. This occasionally causes them to be identified as the 'alien' snail. To avoid this problem, ensure you check all the features carefully. By checking the shell patterns and shape of the snail it is fairly easy to spot young Common and Banded Snails.

Yellow Snails



Many schools report on finding strange yellow snails. These are always found to be the variety of Banded Garden Snail that doesn't have stripes. Remember that the number of bands or stripes on the banded snail can vary from 0 to 5 and without any stripes - it just appears yellow.

If you have any problems in identifying your snails then e-mail a question or a digital photo to danielle.cowell@nmgw.ac.uk for help or phone 02920 573304.