



**ESSEX**  
Wildlife Trust

Garden  
Snail



GlaxoSmithKline

## Invertebrates ~ Snails



Snails live in your garden, in ponds and at the beach. They all have a shell and are known as Gastropods which means Mouth and Foot. They have no legs but one foot that they slime around on and they have their mouth on the bottom of their foot!



Most snails eat plants only. They always seem to eat all the vegetables and flowers we like in our gardens and not the weeds! They have their teeth on their tongue and they lick plants to eat them. One sea snail called a Whelk eats other shellfish. It has an arm with a tooth on the end of it that it uses to drill a hole in the limpet shell. This takes three days. Then it is sick with acid saliva in the limpet to turn it into liquid and then sucks it up like a soup.

Sea snails called Periwinkles live in a really extreme habitat. They live in the bit of land between high tide and low tide. That means that they spend half

their life in rough salty water and the other half of their life out on hot dry land. They have to keep from drying out so they have a little trap door that closes when they are out on land and it keeps them nice and damp inside.

### MYTH OR FACT

Slugs are snails that have lost their shells

Myth – Snails and slugs are similar but they are different creatures. Slugs are born without shells. They rely on their incredibly yucky slime to protect them and so do not need a shell. They are so slimy nothing will eat them. If you get slug slime on you it is really hard to get it off. You can't wash it off and soap doesn't remove it. There are lots of different types of slugs – one spotty one called a Leopard slug eats dead animals and there is a



big black slug with an orange fringe called a Black slug that is sometimes orange!

Snails are boys and girls

Fact – Snails (and slugs) are hermaphrodites. That means that they are a boy and girl at the same time. After mating they both snails lay eggs. No wonder there are so many snails around!

## Come out and go wild with Essex Wildlife Trust



You can join us on a mini beast hunt, come crabbing or pond dipping, or create amazing pieces of art. Contact your nearest EWT visitor centre for activities in your area.

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Bedfords Park nr Romford 01708 748646  
Chafford Gorges nr Thurrock 01375 484016  
Fingringhoe nr Colchester 01206 729678

Hanningfield nr Chelmsford 01268 711001  
Langdon nr Basildon 01268 419103  
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We are celebrating our 50th birthday and you can join in the fun. Send us a list of 50 different types of wildlife you can find in your garden along with your name, age and address and we will send you a prize.

