



# Super Speedy Snail Racing

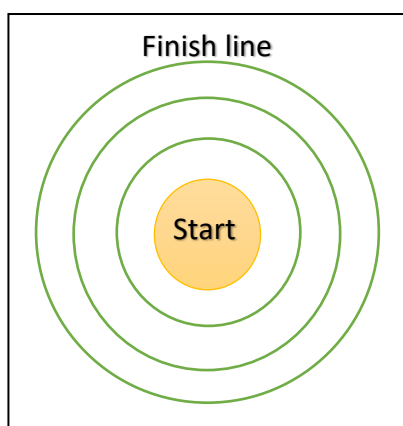


Snails are not the most popular creature.....particularly with gardeners! But, I think that they are fascinating and I'll admit it - I love them! They are gastropods which means 'stomach foot', this alone always makes me smile. Have you ever looked at one through glass and seen their cute little mouths working away?

This activity in no way promotes snail cruelty. If you fancy having a go - this is an entertaining and fun way for you develop a new sense of appreciation for snails (and bond!), whilst also learning lots of facts about their habitats, diet and habits. Enjoy!

## Snail Safety:

- **Finding your snail:** If you're using a container (ice cream etc.), make sure that you provide breathing holes and some food (lettuce, apple and, or cucumber). Don't keep your snails locked up for too long!
- **Pre-race:** Make sure that they are kept in a shaded and cool place.
- **Setting up your race course:** I recommend a round course (see diagram below). Choose a spot out of direct sunlight. Draw the lines or circles either with chalk on an outdoor surface, or pen on a piece of paper.
- **Race Time:** Please handle your snail with care. Don't race the snails for too long. If you use a sticker to help identify them, make sure that you remove these at the end.
- **After the Race:** reward your snails with some delicious fresh lettuce or cucumber after all their hard work.
- **Finally:** safely return the snails back to where you found them.



Race course layout suggestion



## Snail Facts

**Habitat:** cool, dark and damp places.

**Habits:** they are tricky to find during day because they are nocturnal.

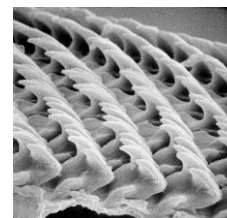
**Lifespan:** 3-7 years, but some can live up to 25 years!

**Diet:** herbivores (leaves, plants, fruit) – they don't eat prickly things.

**They have two pairs of feelers** – the larger two are their eyes and the smaller (lower) pair are used to feel and smell.

**Snails don't have real teeth** – they have something called radula that is made up of thousands of mini points for grinding food (see the photo).

**Snails use slime** to protect and lubricate themselves as they move around (snail trails).



Snail's teeth

**What else can you find out about our gloopy friends?**

