

Snail Safari

Grandpa Goff Bug Club Month #2



Let's Learn About Snails

Snails are one of the earth's craziest creatures, yet they are so common, you can find them almost anywhere in the world.

Can you find a snail? Snails love cool, moist locations so they can often be found in parks and gardens under rotten pieces of wood or boards. You'll also find them under piles of leaves. One good way to find a snail is to look for the shimmery "snail trails" they leave behind as they travel.

1

READ "ESCARGOT"

Here's a book about a funny French snail who doesn't like carrots.

2

MAKE CROUTONS

Use mini cookie-cutters to create your own croutons.

3

ENJOY SNAIL SALAD

Make a snail salad just like Escargot's.



One-footed wonder

Can you move around on just one foot? A snail does!



Snail Slime

The mucus a snail produces helps protect it from rough surfaces.



Eyes but no Ears

A snail has two sets of tentacles—one for seeing, one for smelling.

Meet Escargot, a funny snail who loves salad.

Escargot, as you will learn, is a French snail who loves salad with "croutons and a light vinaigrette." Escargot is not particularly fond of carrots, however, and you may not be either. But by the end of this adventure, it's possible that *both* carrots and snails will be on your "favorite" list.

Here's what you do: Read *Escargot* with a grownup you love. Reading with a French accent makes the book extra fun.



SNAIL SALAD

You can use bento box cookie cutters to make your very own shaped salad croutons. Once your croutons are ready, use your shapes to make more things to go in your salad...maybe even carrots!



1. Preheat your oven to 375 degrees.
2. Help your child cut the sliced bread into desired shapes using the mini cookie cutters.
3. Place the bread cubes in a bowl and shake on some favorite seasonings. For 1 cup of bread cubes, try adding 1/8 teaspoon salt, 1/8 teaspoon garlic salt, a dash of ground pepper, 2 teaspoons of grated Parmesan cheese, and 1 Tablespoon olive oil.
4. Have your child stir the bread cubes together with the seasonings until all of the bread shapes are well-coated.
5. Spread the croutons on a cookie sheet and bake for about 5 minutes. Turn shapes over and continue cooking until the bread shapes turn golden brown and crispy. Remove from oven and cool.

Once you and Escargot finish racing to the end of the story, it might be fun to make a "Snail Salad" of your own.

Don't forget croutons! They are an easy and delicious part of this salad and they are easy to make. Visit piggybackrides.org/snail-salad for some other fun edible snail and salad variations kids will love.

"I will race you to the salad at the end of the book. Whoever gets there first will be the fantastically fast champion of the world."



ARE YOU AS SLOW AS A SNAIL IF YOU ONLY HAVE ONE FOOT?

A snail has two sets of tentacles. The larger tentacles stick straight up and on the very ends, you'll see the snail's eyes.

The second set of smaller tentacles, about where you think the snail's chin would be, are used for smelling. A snail does not have ears so he cannot hear at all.

A snail has only one foot. You can pretend you have only one foot by tying your legs and feet together with a soft cloth, such as a dishtowel. Is it easy crawl if you only have one foot? Invite a grownup or a friend to have a snail race with you. Are you as slow a snail?

We'll catch a snail and put him in a pail...

Snails leave a trail of slime behind as they travel. This slime helps them move along the ground without getting injured.

Try this link to make some of your own snail slime for sensory play:

<http://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/green-apple-slime-recipe-fall-activity/>

“Garden snails can have more than 14,000 teeth—all located on their tongue”

FOR PARENTS: HOW IS YOUR FRENCH ACCENT?



When you read *Escargot* to your child, try using a French accent. It's easy and it will delight your child. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YtMC4yUDhc>

Reading Aloud to your child is one of the most important things you can do to help her succeed.

According to Jim Trelease, author of *The Read Aloud Handbook*, “There's a kind of ‘word reservoir’ in a child's brain and one of the jobs of a parent is to pour so many words into it that it overflows into speech and then reading and writing.” Trelease cites studies that show that a child whose parents read aloud regularly have heard almost 45 million words by the time they are four. That's 3 times as many words as a child whose parents don't read often.

<http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/10-reading-facts-brochure.pdf>