# Pre-K 3 – Nature: Snails

## Key Questions:
- What is a snail?
- What are their physical characteristics?
- How do they eat?
- How do they move?

## Learn about Snails:
- Have you ever seen a snail before?
- What do you know about them?
- What do you want to know?
- Learn a little more about snails here: [https://kids.kiddle.co/Snail](https://kids.kiddle.co/Snail)

## Snail Trail:
- Snails cannot hear. To find their food they use their sense of smell.
- Pretend to be a snail hunting for your food! Put a dab of vanilla extract on a few cotton balls. Hide the cotton balls throughout your home and see if you can find them by using your sense of smell.
- Do you think it would be easy to be a snail?

## Matisse Snail:
- Take a look at The Snail by Henri Matisse from the Tate Galleries: [https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/matisse-the-snail-t00540](https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/matisse-the-snail-t00540)
  - What do you see?
  - What do you think about this piece?
  - What does it make you wonder?
- Matisse often made artwork by cutting or ripping paper and creating a collage.
- Make a snail Matisse inspired artwork of your own!
- If you need more ideas for this art project, check here: [http://www.rubberbootsandelfshoes.com/2019/07/matisse-inspired-snail-art.html](http://www.rubberbootsandelfshoes.com/2019/07/matisse-inspired-snail-art.html)
**Snail Trap:**
- Make your own snail trap by hollowing out an orange or grapefruit half. Turn it upside down and place in a damp, shady spot. The snails will creep under the fruit skin during the day. Check your trap in the morning to see there’s a snail.
- Observe it. What do you notice:
  - How is it moving?
  - What color(s) is it?
  - What does the shell look like?
  - What do you imagine it would feel like if you touched it?

**Spiral Hunt:**
- The shell on a snail’s back helps to protect it, and also keeps it moist. Shells have many different shapes, sizes, and colors, but all snails have a special spiral shape on their shells.
- Can you find spirals anywhere else?
- Go for a walk and look other spiral shapes in your neighborhood.
- How many can you find?

**Play Dough Snails:**
- A snail’s “foot” is a muscle that allows it to move slowly across the ground. Attached to its foot is its head. Attached to its head are stalks with eyes on the end.
- Use play dough to make a snail. Don’t forget its foot, eyes, and shell!
- Look here for a recipe for play dough with common pantry items: https://stayathomeeducator.com/absolutely-perfect-no-cook-scented-play-dough-recipe-without-cream-tartar/