

1

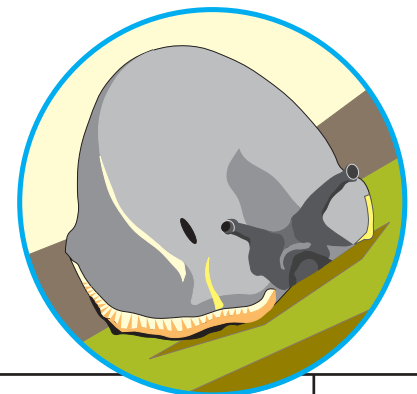
Slug search

Before you set off on your slug search, answer these questions:

- 1 What will you keep your slugs in while they are in your classroom?
- 2 What will you put in to make your slugs at home?
- 3 How will you let air in without moisture, and the slugs, escaping?
- 4 How will you keep the temperature cool, but not cold?
- 5 How will you keep the environment damp, but not waterlogged?

When on the slug hunt you need to consider these things:

- 1 You may need to collect some of these: leaf litter, bark, stones, moss.
- 2 What will you put your slugs in while you are collecting them?
- 3 How will you pick up your slugs and put them in your container?
- 4 Keep a record of the places you found your slugs and the conditions there, e.g. damp soil/dry bark.
- 5 Remember to handle the slugs gently. Always wash your hands before and after handling them.



2

Adopt-a-slug

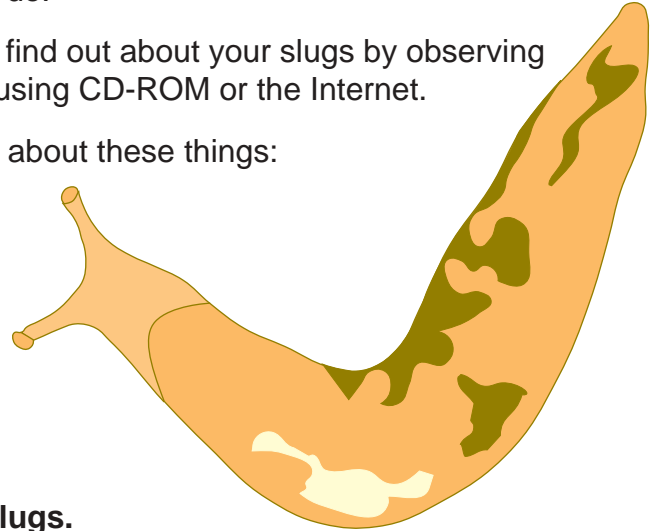
Don't keep your slugs for longer than two weeks, and **always** return them to where you found them.

Slugs eat crops. Before people could think of ways to stop them doing this they had to find out about them – what they liked and didn't like and what they do, don't do or won't do.

See how much your group can find out about your slugs by observing them, researching in books or using CD-ROM or the Internet.

Decide who is going to find out about these things:

- types of slugs
- moving
- eating
- senses
- behaviour.



Remember to care for your slugs.

Here are some questions to help you. You will probably think of some more for yourself:

Types of slugs:

- 1 Are there different sorts of slugs?
- 2 How are they different?
 - are they different sizes?
 - are they different colours?
- 3 How do you know they are all slugs?

Moving:

- 1 How do your slugs move around?
- 2 What can you found out about their slime trail?
- 3 What surfaces can they cross?
- 4 What surfaces can't they cross?
- 5 How could you protect your growing plants?

Eating:

- 1 How do slugs eat?
- 2 What things do they eat?
- 3 What things won't they eat?
- 4 How long would it take one slug to eat a lettuce?
- 5 How much do slugs eat in a day (24hours)?

Senses:

- 1 Can slugs see?
- 2 Can slugs smell things?
- 3 If they can, how good is their sense of smell?
- 4 Are slugs more active in bright light or low light?

Behaviour:

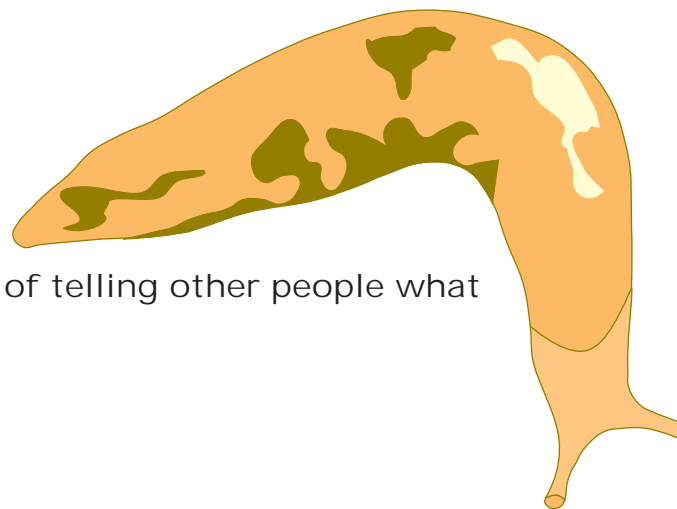
- 1 Do slugs prefer:
 - light or dark
 - warm or cool
 - dry or damp
 - quiet or sound?
- 2 Do slugs behave differently at different times of day?

Now consider



What is the best way of telling other people what you have found out?

- booklet
- poster
- datafile?
- *PowerPoint* presentation?



3

Slug defence

Now that you have found out about slugs, can you think of ways to stop them eating crops?



Remember, you are responsible for looking after the slugs. Your ideas must not harm them.

- How could you **stop** slugs climbing onto plants to graze?
- How could you **distract** slugs away from valuable crops?
- How could you **trap** slugs so that they could be released later, somewhere that they would not damage crops?

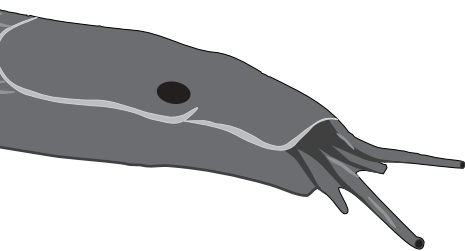
Choose which ideas you are going to try.

Collect what you need to try out your ideas, or build any equipment you need.

Test your idea or ideas. Will you use your classroom slugs or those in the school grounds?

Consider how well your idea worked. Which of these ideas would be of use to a farmer or a gardener?

Tell people what you have found out. You could display your inventions or designs, or advertise your slug defence system.



Now consider



Why do some people use chemicals to kill caterpillars, but take great care of butterflies?