

Snail-powered science: hands-on biology for active classrooms

Activity 1 worksheet

Procedure

1. Label the containers as A and B, then fill one with normal water and the other with low-oxygen water.
2. Place one snail into each container gently.
3. Let them settle for 5 minutes. Observe quietly.
4. Watch and record for the next 10 minutes:
 - How many times does the snail go to the surface?

 - Does the snail stay at the surface for a long time, or only briefly?

5. If time allows, swap the snails into the other container and repeat steps 3 and 4.

Discussion

- What differences did you notice in the snail's behaviour in the two types of water?

- Why do you think low oxygen water causes this behaviour?

- How does the pneumostome help pond snails survive in different environments?

- How might pollution or climate change affect the level of oxygen in ponds?

- What improvements could be made to this experiment?

- How could this experiment relate to real environmental research?

- How can we study snail behaviour ethically while ensuring scientific curiosity does not harm animal welfare?
