

Look very closely at the woodlice in the tray and bug boxes – if you would like to handle them you must be very gentle.

What do they eat and who eats them?

Woodlice eat dead plants and leaves. When they do this, they are recycling the dead leaves from the garden, and putting goodness back into the soil. This makes the soil very good for growing plants.

Woodlice are eaten by other animals, such as spiders, frogs and shrews.

Where do Woodlice live?

Different types of woodlice live in a lot of different countries across the world, from very dry places to ponds and the sea.

In Scotland, the most common woodlice like to live in damp dark places, amongst dead leaves and under logs and stones.

What do they look like?

Woodlice have a tough shell like outer skeleton called an exoskeleton and seven pairs of legs.

The exoskeleton is solid, so cannot let them grow bigger. When they need to grow, their exoskeleton splits across the middle and is lost, leaving a new one underneath.

Look very closely at the snails – if you would like to handle them you must spray your hands to make them wet and be very gentle.

What do they look like?

Snails are invertebrates, which means they don't have a backbone. They are related to slugs, mussels and octopus.

Snails have a hard shell which protects their delicate bodies. Look closely at the snails head, they have lower tentacles that help them feel their way, and two upper ones that are eyes on stalks.

Where do snails live?

More species live in the sea than on land, they can also be found in rivers and ponds.

In Scotland snails are only found near to the coast where the soil is rich in calcium – they need this to help make their shell hard.

What do they eat and who eats them?

Snails are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. They particularly like eating the leaves of primrose, nasturtium, alder, holly and nettles. They have a rough tongue which scrapes away at whatever they are eating.

Many animals eat snails, especially birds, frogs, beetles and hedgehogs.

Look very closely at the worms – if you would like to handle them you must spray your hands to make them wet and be very gentle.



What are Worms?

Worms are a type of animal called an invertebrate – this means that they have no backbone. This animal has several parts that make up its body, each small part has a pair of hairs. The dark end of the worm is its head.

What do Worms eat?

Worms eat dead plants and leaves, which means they are called detritivores. They help the soil by recycling the goodness back into the soil. This makes it very good for growing plants.

Lots of animals that will eat worms, you will find out about this on another table.

Where do worms live?

Worms can be found all over the world.

Worms live in tunnels underground, where they spend most of their time in the dark. If they are in sunlight for too long they can get dried out, and die. Worms breathe through their skin, and need to be kept damp so they can do this.