

Gastropod Bingo



Purpose of activity: To review gastropods (mollusks with one shell or no shell)

Target age group: 8-13

Time needed: Flexible-- you can play just one round or several

Materials needed: A copy of the picture page for each player printed onto card stock, scissors, tokens to place on the squares, one copy of the clue pages

How to assemble:

- 1) Make one copy per player of the picture page, printed onto heavy card stock.
- 2) Cut apart the pictures.

TIP: If you are making many copies of the board pieces so you can play with many students, number the sets (put a number 1 on the backs of all the cards in one set, a number 2 on the cards in another set, etc.) so that if they get mixed up they are easy to sort out again. It is surprising how easily the cards can get mixed up.

How to set up the board:

Here are three different ways to set up the board. You can use just one way, or you can use a different set up for each round.

- 1) **Standard 4x4 bingo board:** Have the players choose 16 of the 20 squares and arrange them into a square.
- 2) **Five small 2x2 squares:** Have the players arrange their 20 squares into five separate 2x2 squares. They must fill all four spaces in one of those 2x2 squares to get a Bingo.
- 3) **5x5 square with free space:** Cut an extra square for each player, to use as a FREE square in the middle. Have the players arrange all 20 of their pieces, plus the extra square into a format that looks like this:

How to play:

Use the following pages of clues. Be prepared to help younger students find the right gastropod on their board.

KEY: (top to bottom, left to right)

First row: murex, abalone, pond snail, cone snail

Second row: periwinkle, blue angel nudibranch, purple nudibranch, whelk

Third row: auger, cowrie, moon snail, leopard slug

Fourth row: banana slug, garden slug, limpet, apple snail

Fifth row: tree snail, wentletrap, bubble shell snail, African land snail

Gastropod Bingo pictures



Gastropod Bingo clues:

FIRST ROUND CLUES:

- 1) The murex is famous for its ability to produce a dark purple dye. This purple dye was so expensive that only kings and queens could afford to have purple clothes. The murex shell has very long spikes along both sides.
- 2) The abalone shell might look like a clam, but it isn't. The abalone's foot has a strong suction cup that allows it to stick very tightly to rocks. The shell covers and protects the body. You can see several air holes in a line across the shell, and the inside looks like mother of pearl.
- 3) The pond snail lives underwater most of the time even though it has a lung and must breathe air. Many people keep pond snails in their freshwater aquariums because the snails will eat the algae that grows on the glass.
- 4) The gastropod animal that lives inside the cone shell has a venomous sting. The sting of a cone shell can injure or kill a human, so scuba divers looking to collect shells must be very careful not to pick up cone shells even though they have beautiful patterns.
- 5) Periwinkles aren't colorful and tend to blend in with their rocky surroundings. They are omnivores, eating both plants and small animals.
- 6) The blue angel nudibranch is a type of sea slug. It eats jellyfish and stores the venom in its own tissues.
- 7) Nudibranchs have large gills that gather oxygen from the water. One species is purple and yellow.
- 8) The whelk is a gastropod that many people are familiar with because they are often found on ocean beaches.
- 9) The auger gets its name from a tool called the auger, which is a type of drill.
- 10) The cowrie has a very smooth, shiny shell and often has brown and black spotted patterns.
- 11) The moon snail lives in the ocean and is a predator, hunting and eating other shelled mollusks. It chews a hole in their shell with its radula. Moon snails often look like they are wearing a skirt.
- 12) The leopard slug has spots that look very much like a leopard!
- 13) The banana slug is easy to spot because it is yellow.
- 14) The garden slug is the most common slug in North America, and often annoys gardeners by chewing big holes in vegetable leaves.
- 15) The limpet has a white, cone-shaped shell. The foot is able to stick very tightly to rocks.
- 16) The apple snail often grows quite large. It has an operculum, which is like a door it can shut to trap itself inside the shell. It has a smooth, rounded shape.
- 17) The tree snail is a climber and likes to nibble on plants.
- 18) The wentletrap snail got its name from the Dutch word for staircase.
- 19) The bubble shell snail often has a colorful pattern of lines on its shell. Its body sticks out under the shell.
- 20) The giant African land snail is the largest species of snail in the world.

SECOND ROUND CLUES:

- 1) Garden slugs tend to be nocturnal, eating at night.
 - 2) The leopard slug can grow to be longer than a human hand.
 - 3) The cone snail's venom is being studied by scientists and might turn out to be useful for making medicines.
 - 4) The blue angel nudibranch can also be called the blue dragon nudibranch.
 - 5) The murex snail is carnivorous and eats clams and other snails.
 - 6) Like all nudibranchs, the purple nudibranch has tentacles that it uses for touch, taste and smell.
 - 7) The auger shell animal has a venomous barb that it uses to stun and kill prey, mostly marine worms.
 - 8) The bubble shell snail feeds on sea grasses under water. Its shell is very thin and light, like a bubble.
 - 9) The beautiful spotted cowrie shell has been used as money by people on Pacific islands.
 - 10) The moon snail is dioecious, having males and females. Even the males have skirts!
 - 11) Giant African land snails can be kept as a pet, though in Africa they are considered to be pests because they eat agricultural crops.
 - 12) The abalone has gills and gets its oxygen from the water.
 - 13) Banana slugs are not always yellow, but can be brown or tan or white. They live on the Pacific coast of North America.
 - 14) The limpet might look like nothing but a white thing on a rock, but inside it has a three-chambered heart!
 - 15) The apple snail is unusual because it has both a gill and a lung.
 - 16) Periwinkles are eaten in Scotland and Ireland. They are steamed and then put into small paper bags.
 - 17) Some tree snails are beneficial to trees because they eat the lichens and fungi that grow on the bark.
 - 18) Like all water snails, the pond snail has only two tentacles.
 - 19) Wentletraps are predators, and are known to eat sea anemones and coral polyps. They live in all the oceans of the world.
 - 20) Female whelks can produce long strands of egg cases (a fun thing to find when you are beach combing!).
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GENERIC CLUES for a flexible round (can choose one that fits description)

(Must give correct name of gastropod when reading back answers after getting a Bingo)

- 1) Has spots
- 2) Has stripes
- 3) Lives in the water all the time. (pond snail, blue angel, purple nudibranch, bubble shell, moon snail,
- 4) Lives on land. (African land snail, tree snail, all land slugs)
- 5) Is venomous (cone shell, blue angel, auger)
- 6) Has a skirt (moon snail, bubble shell snail,
- 7) Doesn't have a shell (all varieties of slugs)
- 8) Looks like an object that humans use (wentletrap, auger)
- 9) Is white
- 10) Is sometimes kept as a pet (pond snail, African snail, apple snail, and maybe leopard slug)