Worksheet 1: "Gastropods in Backyards - Introduction and Identification"

Objective: Introduce students to the basic concepts of gastropods and their characteristics.

Fill in the Blanks:

Watch the "Backyard Science - Gastropods" video and fill in the blanks to complete the sentences.

a. Gastropods are part of the mollusk family, which includes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

b. During summer months, snails and slugs are likely hiding under \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

c. Slugs move with a foot that uses muscular contractions to navigate terrain, and a layer of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ protects them and is easily visible.

Identification Challenge:

Create a list of gastropod characteristics mentioned in the video.

Challenge students to identify and list three gastropods commonly found in their local environment (backyard, park, etc.).

Encourage them to use online resources or field guides to aid in identification.

Worksheet 2: "Slug Exploration - Backyard Activity"

Objective: Engage students in a hands-on activity where they explore their surroundings for gastropods.

Backyard Exploration:

Encourage students to go to their backyards, local parks, or natural areas to search for gastropods.

Ask them to observe and document the gastropods they find, noting their features and behaviors.

Optionally, students can take pictures or draw sketches of the gastropods they encounter.

Data Collection and Analysis:

Have students record the following details for each gastropod found:

Size

Color

Location (under rocks, planters, plant debris, etc.)

Any observable behaviors

Reflection and Reporting:

After the exploration, students can reflect on their findings and share their observations with the class.

Discuss commonalities and differences in the gastropods found by various students.

Worksheet 3: "Gastropod Ecology and Adaptations"

Objective: Explore the ecological role and adaptations of gastropods in their environments.

Adaptations and Survival:

Choose one gastropod species identified during the exploration.

Describe the adaptations that help it survive in its environment.

Discuss how these adaptations contribute to the gastropod's role in the ecosystem.

Ecosystem Importance:

Research and list the ways in which gastropods are important in ecosystems.

Create a visual representation (diagram, chart, or infographic) to illustrate the relationships between gastropods and other organisms in the ecosystem.

Discussion:

Discuss how gastropods are both beneficial and challenging for humans, considering their impact on crops and their importance in ecosystems.

Explore potential ways to coexist with gastropods in urban and agricultural settings.