

# Amazing Snail Facts!



1. There are about **30,000—35,000** land snail species. Also, there are roughly **45,000** species of sea snails and sea slugs (some estimates are even higher!). By comparison, there are about **6,600** species of mammals.
2. Most snails have many tiny teeth attached to a "toothy tongue" called a radula. (Some snails and slugs have thousands of tiny teeth!)
3. Most land snails have eyes at the end of their eye stalks. (Land snails are often depicted otherwise, with their eyes on their head with their eye stalks as "antennae".)
4. A land snail's shell grows with it throughout the snail's life. (A shell starts out small and grows with the snail as it grows; it can't leave its shell, it is attached to it like a turtle is attached to its shell.)
5. Many land snails can pull their bodies deep into their shells and produce a protective covering over their shell opening when it is too hot, cold, or dry. (This structure is called an epiphragm.)
6. Land snails can make a few different kinds of slime; the most common allows them to crawl along the ground easily and unharmed.
7. As far as scientists can tell, snails cannot hear sounds—they have no ears or ear-like structures. (They can feel vibrations, though.)
8. Land snails that live on islands are one of the most endangered groups of animals on Earth. (One of the other most endangered groups is also a mollusk—the freshwater mussels.)
9. Land snails are most closely related to clams, oysters, squid, octopus, and other mollusks. (These other mollusks include tusk shells (called scaphopods), chitons, and a few lesser known groups called monoplacophorans, caudofoveata, and solenogastres.)
10. Land snail species live on trees, in caves, in grasslands, every kind of forest, on the tops of many mountains, and even in deserts. The only place they don't live is the Arctic and Antarctic.)