



# THE LIFE OF A SNAIL

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The entire snail life cycle is a very slow and very interesting process that consists of the stages of an **egg, a juvenile, an adult, an elder, and lastly death**. The snail first lays its eggs in wet soil or under leaves, because this way the eggs are not only kept cool but are also protected from predators. After the waiting period of some days or weeks, the egg turns into the tiniest of the snails that are covered with soft, transparent shells. Right away, the process of feeding and growing begins for them, and with time they do not just get bigger but also harder and that is because they are adding calcium to their shells. The **juvenile stage** is all about growth and survival of the fittest for snails. In the originally mentioned way, they make up a very diverse diet consisting of algae and even dead plants, but not all of them are smoking as they are also very careful not to be seen by predators and they do not live in dry places. The shell spiral grows along with their age and they slowly become **adults** and soon they will be up for mating too. Most of the time they are hermaphrodites, meaning they possess the organs of both sexes and thus can reproduce after a single mating session when both partners become pregnant. **Adult snails** generally inhabit the moist and shadowy places and at the same time continue to be strong in their shells and bodies.

During the **elder stage**, snails take less time to move around and their shells could become fragile or smooth due to constant friction. The reproduction process becomes less effective and they might go through dormancy or take up the hibernation routine just to cope with the ill weather. Ultimately, like all living beings, snails also have to go through the death stage, which can be caused by old age, predators or stress from the environment. The death of a snail comes along with the disintegration of its body, which in turn adds nutrients to the soil, but very often the shell is left behind as a sign of that life. A snail's life from egg to death has been nothing but the characteristics of the earth, therefore, it has witnessed and symbolized in the snail's long life cycle.



# FIGURE 1.

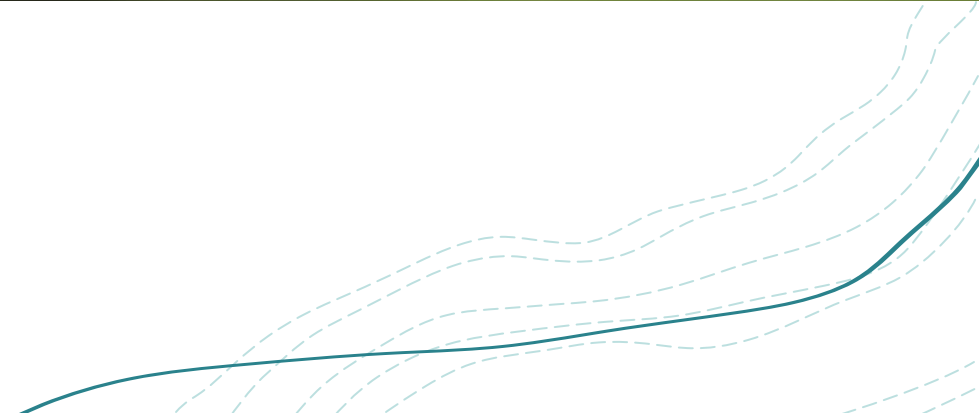
Egg Stage



**FIGURE 2.**  
Hatching Stage



**FIGURE 3.**  
Juvenile Stage





**FIGURE 4.**  
Sub Adult stage



# FIGURE 5.

Adult Stage



**FIGURE 6.**  
Mating Stage



**FIGURE 7.**  
Elder Stage



**FIGURE 8.**  
Death Stage

I chose these images because they best portray, each stage of the life of a snail accurately like how **(Figure 1.)** shows both parents and the babies they both created combined also showing the usual spot snails go to mate in. While **(Figure 2.)** shows how the babies hatch as well as what they look like once they've broken through their shell or like how **(Figure 3.)** shows how the shell and its pattern is something their born with, that grows and hardens over time **(Figure 4.)** and **(Figure 7.)** shows perfectly what happens after death, their body decomposes within the shell or gets eaten by a predator. While the shell dissolves, or breaks. These images portray the evolutions, growth that happens in each stage of a snails life which is why I picked them.

These images show the cycle of life that every animal and insect goes through, on paper with no description these stages are the building ground to life, from egg to adult to death. Each stage is something all animals go through and we as humans study this in all animals we can find and the snail is no different. These images exist to give insight to the life of a snail but they also aim to show a bigger picture which is to understand that each stage of life gives back and takes from to its ecosystem and sometimes its environment giving context to the story of the snails life showing that cycle of taking and giving back. The cover image in particular is special in the fact that it invokes pathos, a feeling of disgust as most people would react to snails but also creates intrigue raising questions the more you look at the image, like the type of snail, and what's its doing. Ethos can also be taken from this image as the high quality of the image might suggest the taker is proficient in taking photo giving the image some amount of credibility.

# SOURCES

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