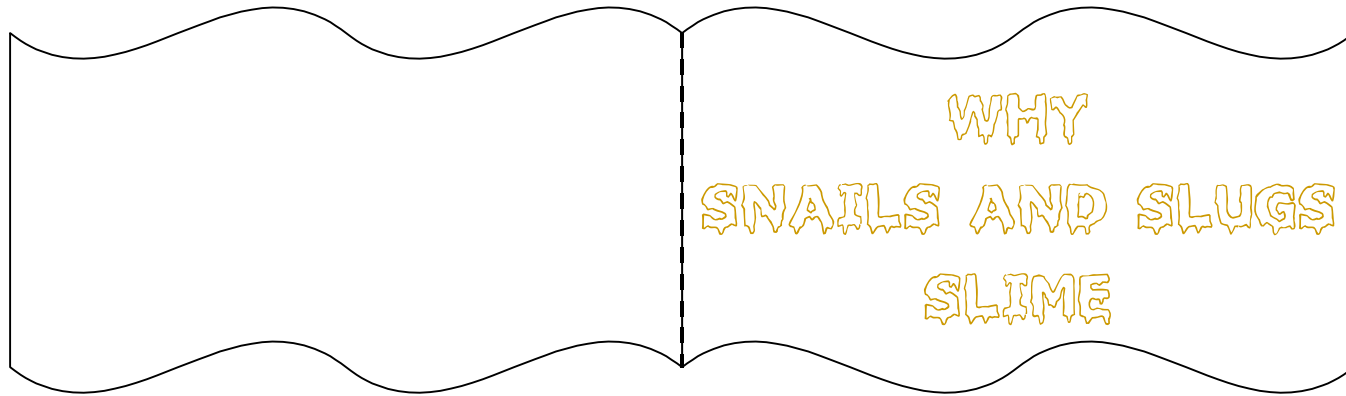


Cut out on solid line. Mountain fold on dotted line. Write about snail slime inside book.



Slime! –

All snails and slugs need moisture to keep their bodies damp. The reason that some snails and slugs can survive on land is because they can create their own moisture. Have you ever watched the slimy trail a land snail or slug leaves behind as it moves forward? Have you ever picked up a slug, and get your hand covered with slime that was hard to wash off? These pulmonates create their own slimy mucous. One of the biggest dangers to pulmonates is drying out. If they get dry, they will shrivel up and die. This slimy mucous they make helps to keep their bodies moist and protected from the dry terrain they cross. It also helps them glide more smoothly, even across sharp objects, without hurting themselves. If the weather gets too dry, snails and slugs can cover themselves with the slimy mucous and “rest” until rains come again. Pulmonates use this slimy mucous for protection from predators, too. No animal wants a mouthful of goey slime!