



How Banana Slugs Work

Video #338

Developed for Grades: 2nd - 5th

The WOW videos have been developed to inspire students to learn more about **NGSS Life Science and/or Earth Science Disciplinary Core Ideas**. These could include:

- Plants and animals (including humans) can change their environment.
- Living things need water, air, and resources from the land.
- Humans use natural resources for everything they do.
- All organisms have internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior and reproduction.
- Importance of ecosystems and habitats
- Cross cutting concepts like patterns, cause and effect, etc.

The WOW videos and their support documents can also be used with **English Language Arts**. Here are some ideas:

1. Select a few questions from the Know-It-All section and have students write their answers.
2. Have students write a story related to the topic. They could even add illustrations. For some grades students could read their stories and/or video tape their readings to share.
3. Students could write a poem, a play, or a song based on something in the video that created an emotional response for them.
4. Key words in the video can be used in creative writing assignments.
5. Older students could explore the difference in learning from video as opposed to a book. What are the advantages and disadvantages?

Answer Key for Know-It-All

1. Banana slugs have sensitive skin that they breathe through! (We do some 'breathing' through our skins too, but mostly through our lungs. Banana slugs have no lungs.) You may have substances like insect repellent or sanitizer on your hand that could hurt the banana slug if you touch it. So if you are going to pick up a banana slug, it's best to use leaves and dirt from the forest floor to do it.
2. Banana slugs have adaptations to help them move via their foot (muscles contracting and relaxing in the foot) and slime, to help them find food and eat via their tentacles and radula, to help them reproduce via chemical signals in their slime and that they are hermaphrodites, and to protect them from predators via their slime and yellow coloring.
3. Banana slugs have slime to help them crawl up dry hillsides, to keep themselves moist so they can breathe through their skin, and to protect them from predators. Their slime also sends out chemicals that signal to other banana slugs when they are ready to mate.
4. No, they would not be a very tasty snack for most predators because of their slime! However, the Pacific Giant Salamander can eat them.
5. Up to seven years!

