

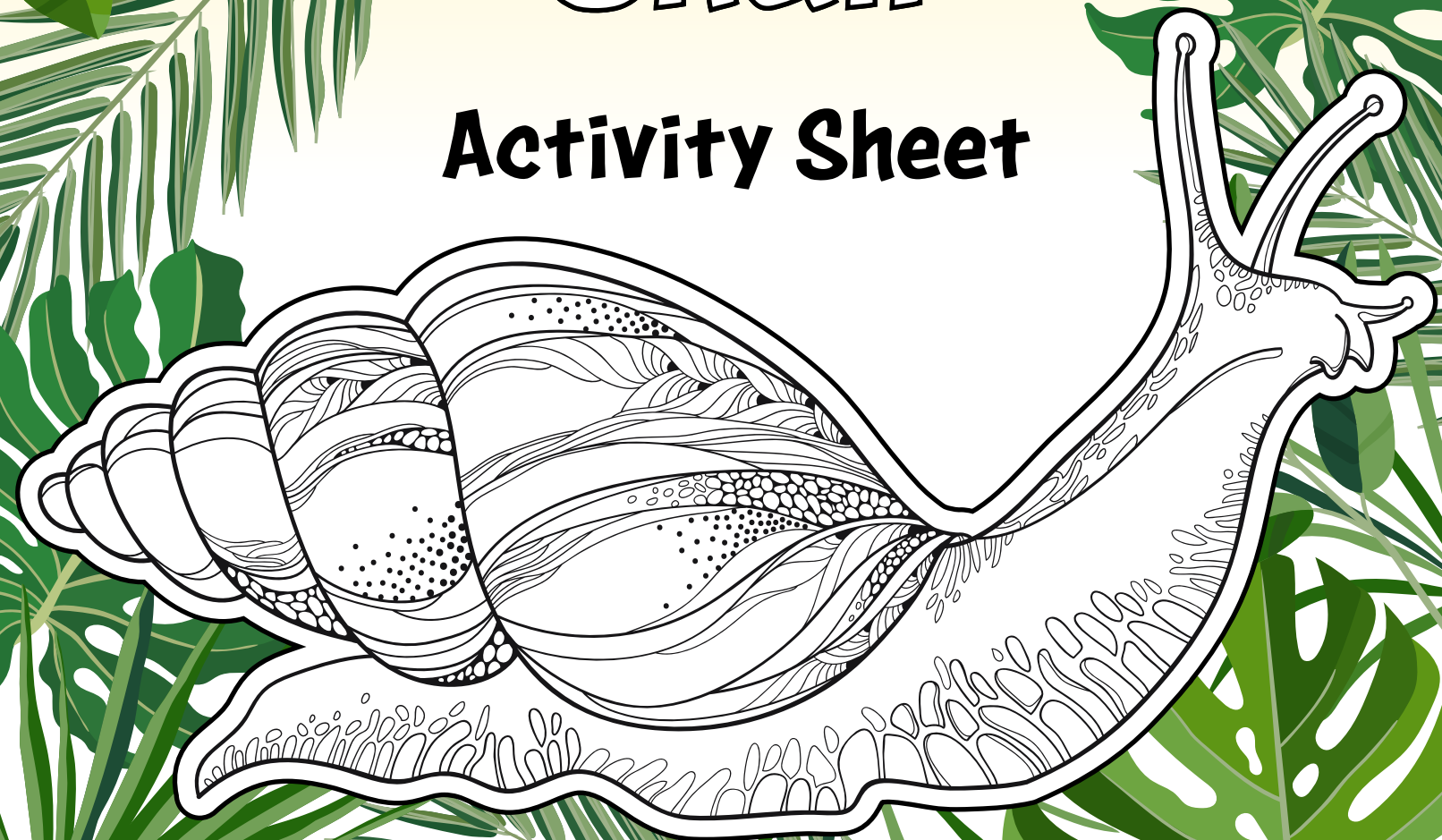


Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Adaptive and
Damaging**

Giant African Snail

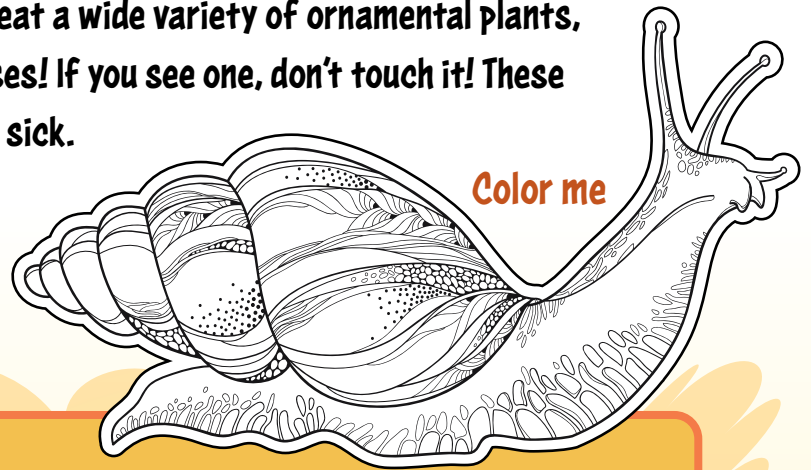
Activity Sheet



Giant African Snail

One of the most DAMAGING land snails in the world

It is illegal to bring giant African snails into the United States and its Territories. These snails are **INVASIVE** and a serious threat to U.S. agriculture. The snails are native to East Africa. Today they are also found in parts of Asia; the Indo-Pacific Basin, including Hawaii and Guam; the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico; and South America. These snails are **HUGE**—about the size of an average adult fist. They have brown bodies and a light-brown shell with brown and cream-colored bands. The giant African snail eats at least 500 different types of plants, including peanuts, beans, peas, cucumbers, and melons. They will also eat a wide variety of ornamental plants, tree bark, and even paint and stucco on houses! If you see one, don't touch it! These snails can carry diseases that will make you sick.



Puzzle Inspection

Learn more about what
giant African snails eat
Find the words from the list
below in the puzzle grid.

Beans

Breadfruit

Coffee

Cotton

Cucumbers

Melons

Peanuts

Peas

Pumpkins

Rubber

Tea

Tobacco

B	C	O	T	T	O	N	Y	T	P	S	Y	S	N	C
C	R	X	R	D	X	W	F	U	N	N	X	O	Z	X
G	N	E	P	U	W	W	M	I	M	O	N	J	U	R
S	Z	Q	A	B	B	P	A	E	T	L	Q	X	C	Y
Z	R	U	L	D	K	B	L	O	K	E	G	M	U	M
T	V	Y	Y	I	F	K	E	F	Z	M	H	V	C	L
W	D	I	N	I	O	R	I	R	X	F	E	V	U	R
O	L	S	D	I	S	T	U	N	A	E	P	H	M	P
Y	C	K	T	H	Z	Z	I	I	F	T	P	Y	B	B
E	O	C	R	I	H	U	L	C	T	I	E	B	E	J
V	T	P	A	T	B	C	R	K	Q	E	B	X	R	M
L	N	Q	P	B	P	P	T	B	F	J	E	L	S	Z
G	J	E	U	C	O	Q	F	F	L	C	A	I	M	Z
F	A	N	E	I	K	T	O	Q	Y	U	N	W	E	D
S	A	W	C	R	Y	C	E	L	F	V	S	D	B	Z



The average lifespan of a **Giant African Snail** is 3 years and it hatches 100 eggs every 3 months. **How many offspring could a snail have in its lifetime?**

Compare The Size!

The giant African snail can reach almost 8 inches in length and 4 inches in diameter. A major league baseball is less than 3 inches in diameter, and ordinary snails average less than an inch.



Most giant African snails are illegally imported into the United States and its Territories. U.S. inspectors at airports and sea-ports often find them in travelers' bags and in plant shipments. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has confiscated illegal giant African snails from pet stores, schools, and private breeders across the country. People admire these snails for their impressive size, but they do not make good pets. You should not buy or bring a giant African snail into this country. Each snail has both female and male reproductive organs. They can produce between 100 and 500 eggs every 2 to 3 months. These snails can also spread parasites that can cause meningitis in humans.

Two qualities make the giant African snail dangerous to U.S. agriculture. First, it can survive cooler temperatures and unfavorable conditions by hibernating for months. Second, one snail can produce more than 1,000 offspring in its lifetime.

In 1966, a boy from Miami, FL, carried three giant African snails in his pocket when he returned from a trip to Hawaii. His grandmother released the snails into her garden. Seven years later, more than 18,000 snails were found nearby! It cost the State of Florida \$1 million and took 10 years to eradicate the snails. In 2011, the giant African snail was found again in Miami. It took another 10 years and cost \$23 million to eradicate the snails. Today, USDA and the State of Florida are battling the invasive snail again, this time in Pasco County, FL.

Giant African snails have been found or eradicated from Puerto Rico, Guam, and Hawaii. They could survive and establish in many U.S. States, including Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. Answer the questions to the right to test your geography knowledge and thinking skills.



Can you locate the U.S. States and Territories where giant African snails have been found or eradicated?

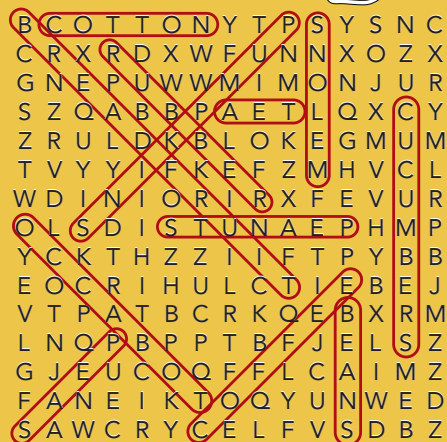
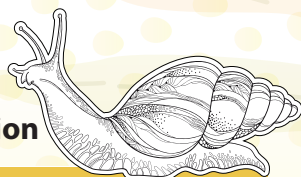
Can you list other places in the world where the snails can be found? _____

Why is it possible for the snails to live in different parts of the world and within the United States? _____

Looking at the map of the United States, where else might the snails appear in the future? Why? _____

Answers

Puzzle Inspection



Question

The average lifespan of a **giant African snail** is 3 years. It can hatch as many as 100 eggs every 3 months. How many offspring could a snail have in its lifetime? **1,200 eggs**

Geography Challenge

Can you locate the States and Territories where giant African snails have been found or eradicated?
Florida, Puerto Rico, Guam, Hawaii

Can you name other places in the world where the snails are found? **East Africa, parts of Asia, the Indo-Pacific Basin, the Caribbean, and South America**

Why is it possible for the snails to live in different parts of the world and within the United States? **The snails can survive cooler temperatures and unfavorable conditions by hibernating for months.**

Looking at the map of the United States, where else might the snails appear in the future? Why? **Anywhere. U.S. inspectors find these snails in travelers' baggage at the airport and in pet stores. Many people do not know they are illegal.**

