



# Giant African Snails

Reading Worksheet — Level C | [tahricteaches.com](http://tahricteaches.com)

Giant African snails are one of the largest land snails in the world. They can grow up to 30 centimeters long — about as big as your forearm! These **mollusks** originally come from East Africa, but they have spread to many other countries. Their shells are brown with yellow stripes and are very **distinctive**.

Giant African snails eat a huge variety of plants. They are **herbivores** that feed on fruits, vegetables, and leaves. In places where they are not from, they can destroy **crops** and gardens very quickly. A single snail can eat more than 500 different types of plants, making them a serious problem for farmers.

These snails **reproduce** very fast. A single snail can lay up to 1,200 eggs per year. The eggs hatch quickly and the baby snails grow fast. Because of this, a small group of snails can become a very large **population** in just a few months. This makes them hard to control once they arrive in a new area.

Giant African snails are considered an **invasive species**. This means they cause problems in places where they do not naturally live. They damage farms, compete with local animals for food, and can spread disease. Taiwan, Hawaii, and Florida have all had serious problems with these snails **invading** local areas.

Controlling giant African snails is very difficult. Some countries use special **traps** or chemicals to reduce their numbers. It is illegal to bring these snails into many countries, including the United States. If you see one, you should not touch it because they can carry **parasites** that make people sick. Keeping them out of new areas is the best way to protect local plants and animals.

## A. Vocabulary

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|--------------------------|---|
| 1. mollusks ____         | a. the total number of living things in an area               |
| 2. distinctive ____      | b. organisms that live inside another creature and cause harm |
| 3. herbivores ____       | c. animals that only eat plants                               |
| 4. crops ____            | d. spreading into a place where something does not belong     |
| 5. reproduce ____        | e. devices used to catch animals                              |
| 6. population ____       | f. a group of soft-bodied animals, often with shells          |
| 7. invasive species ____ | g. easy to recognize because of special features              |
| 8. invading ____         | h. plants grown by farmers for food                           |
| 9. traps ____            | i. to have babies or make more of the same kind               |
| 10. parasites ____       | j. a plant or animal that causes harm in a new place          |

## B. True or False

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- \_\_\_ 1. Giant African snails can grow up to 30 centimeters long.
- \_\_\_ 2. Giant African snails originally come from South America.
- \_\_\_ 3. These snails eat only one type of plant.
- \_\_\_ 4. A single snail can lay up to 1,200 eggs per year.
- \_\_\_ 5. Giant African snails are considered an invasive species.
- \_\_\_ 6. These snails are helpful to farmers.
- \_\_\_ 7. Giant African snails can spread disease.
- \_\_\_ 8. It is legal to bring these snails into the United States.
- \_\_\_ 9. Giant African snails can carry parasites.
- \_\_\_ 10. Their shells are brown with yellow stripes.

## C. Fill in the Blanks

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**Word Bank:** mollusks, herbivores, crops, reproduce, population, invasive species, traps, parasites

- 1. Giant African snails are \_\_\_\_\_ that only eat plants.
- 2. They can destroy \_\_\_\_\_ and gardens very quickly.
- 3. A snail can \_\_\_\_\_ and lay up to 1,200 eggs per year.
- 4. These snails are an \_\_\_\_\_ that causes problems in new areas.
- 5. Giant African snails can carry \_\_\_\_\_ that make people sick.



## D. Comprehension Questions

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- 1. Why are giant African snails a problem for farmers?
- 2. Why are they so hard to control once they arrive somewhere new?
- 3. What should you do if you see a giant African snail?

## E. Discussion Questions

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- 1. Why is it important to stop invasive species from spreading to new areas?
- 2. What can governments do to prevent invasive species from entering a country?

# Answer Key

## Giant African Snails — Level C

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**A. Vocabulary:** 1-f, 2-g, 3-c, 4-h, 5-i, 6-a, 7-j, 8-d, 9-e, 10-b

**B. True/False:** 1-T, 2-F, 3-F, 4-T, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T, 10-T

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-herbivores, 2-crops, 3-reproduce, 4-invasive species, 5-parasites

**D. Comprehension:**

1. They eat over 500 types of plants and can destroy crops quickly
2. They reproduce fast — up to 1,200 eggs per year — so numbers grow rapidly
3. Don't touch it — they carry parasites that make people sick