

## ***Snail Eggs***

Directions and Supplies needed for this activity:

Common aquarium snails are an easy organism to maintain. Kept in an aquarium and fed algae pellets and fish food, they will produce eggs fairly regularly.

Directions:

- One bunch of snail eggs can be used by two groups of students. So, obtain as many clumps or bunches of snail eggs as needed. Snail eggs should be kept in an aquarium or in small container full of aquarium water for no longer than two days. Be sure to loosen the cap of the container for gas exchange.
- Mature eggs in late development will have a dark coloration. Eggs in early development will be clear or nearly clear. Choose clumps of eggs depending on what you want your students to see. This activity can be expanded/modified to include eggs in early development and late.
- Use a plastic transfer pipette to split the clump of eggs into two pieces. Transfer to a plastic well slide and cover with water and then the slide cover. If using the eggs for an extended time (multiple classes), it's wise to open up the slide for gas exchange and/or change the water to keep the eggs alive.
- Observe the eggs with a hand lens and then a compound microscope.

Supplies:

- One clump of snail eggs per two groups of students.
- One plastic well slide per group of students
- Plastic transfer pipettes with ends cut off to make opening wide enough to accommodate snail eggs.
- 1 hand lens per group of students
- 1 compound microscope per group of students
- 1 student worksheet per student
- Optional: video of mature snail egg showing almost fully developed snail with beating heart available from HCC YouTube channel or Biotech web site.  
[www.hagerstownc.edu/biotech](http://www.hagerstownc.edu/biotech)
- Optional: video of snail development from early egg to hatching by New Scientist can be viewed on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/RD0hpjxbBI8>