

What is Guess Whorl?

Inspired by Guess Who, Guess Whorl is a competitive card game in which players take turns asking questions about identifying features. The goal is to deduce the identity of a mystery British freshwater snail species using the process of elimination, with questions such as; “Does this snail have a pointy shell?” or “Is this snail’s shell striped?”.

Guess Whorl was designed to be used as a fun teaching tool. Players can learn about the differences between types of British pond snails and how to deduce and describe those differences like a taxonomist.

How is Guess Whorl played?

Guess Whorl is suitable for players of all ages and backgrounds. The card game requires two players, each player should have the following:

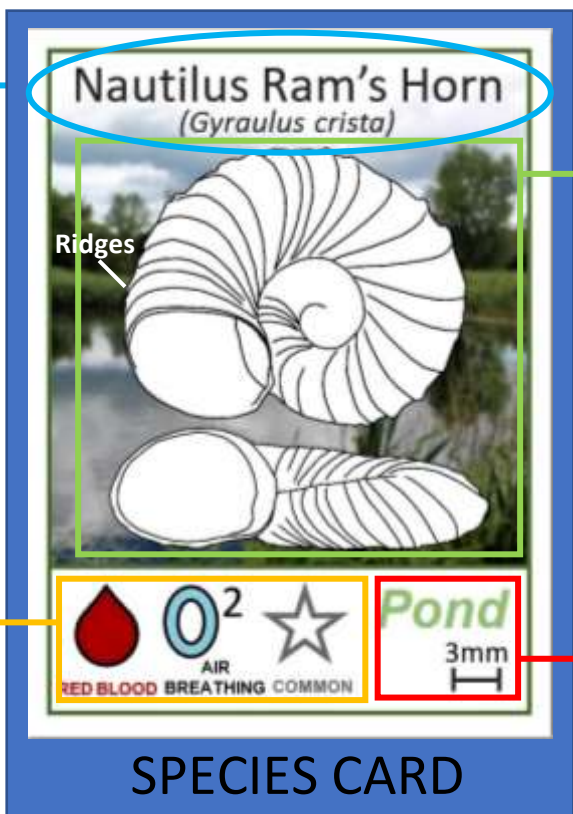
- a. A copy of the Guess Whorl Playing Cards.
- b. A copy of the Species Cards

Players can find both the Guess Whorl Playing Cards and the Species Cards on the ‘Guess Whorl Card Decks’ PDF document. There are 17 unique Guess Whorl Playing Cards. To begin the game, players should lay these cards out in front of them, **facing upwards** (below).



Both players should then choose one Species Card at random (from a choice of 17). These Species Cards are almost identical to the Guess Whorl Playing Cards. Players should keep their mystery Species Cards hidden.

For example, Player 1 chooses The Nautilus Ram's Horn Species Card.



Nautilus Ram's Horn
(Gyraulus crista)

Ridges

RED BLOOD BREATHING COMMON

Pond
3mm

SPECIES CARD

This is the Nautilus Ram's Horn Snail. The Latin name for this species is *Gyraulus crista*.

These icons reveal that the snail is red blooded, that the species breathes underwater and that it is common throughout Britain.

Ram's Horn Snails have a flattened shell which looks like a wheel from the top-view. A side-view of the snail reveals that the shell is *sinistral* (the opening is on the left-hand side). The shell has ridges (labelled), but no coloured markings.

The Nautilus Ram's Horn is 3mm in size and lives in ponds.



Players must take turns asking questions about identifying features so that they can correctly guess the identity of the mystery species chosen by the other player (**see the table at the bottom of the document for suggested questions**).

In this example, Player 2 asks: "Does the snail have ridges?". Questions must be answered with either **YES** or **NO**, so Player 1 answers with "YES".

Player 2 knows that the mystery snail must have ridges and **turns over** any Playing Cards with an illustration of a snail's shell **without** ridges.

Player 1 has their turn to ask a question about an identifying feature, and this is how the game continues. Players continue taking turns and asking questions until either one has only one playing card left. The first player to correctly guess the identity of the other's mystery snail wins!

We hope you enjoy the game! Let us know your thoughts via @CardiffCurator and use the #NatureOnYourDoorstep.

Question	Choices
Does the shell have coloured markings.....?	YES NO
Does the snail live in.....?	<i>Pond</i> <i>Green houses</i> <i>Salt marshes</i> <i>Lake</i> <i>River</i>
Is the shell.....?	Sinistral Dextral
Does the shell have ridges...?	YES NO
Does the snail have.....coloured blood?	 BLUE  RED
Does the snail breathe in.....?	 AIR  WATER
Is the shell.....mm in size?	3 5 10 20 30
Is the shell.....shaped?	Pointed Flat
Is the snail.....in the UK?	 COMMON  RARE

This is a list of questions a player should ask if they want to identify a freshwater snail species. There are 22 possible questions. And remember, questions can only be answered with YES or NO.