

How Slow Can You Go?

You need ✓ a ruler

✓ a piece of string

Activity

1. The sloth is one of the slowest of all land animals. It lives in the South or Central American tropical rainforests and spends most of its time hanging upside down from tree branches. When it moves, it takes a minute to move about 5 metres along a tree branch. Occasionally, it climbs down to the ground and moves even more slowly at about 2 metres a minute.



- If a sloth spends about 28 minutes moving in a tree, how far does it travel?
- How long would the sloth take to travel 62 metres along branches?
- What is its speed in metres per hour on the ground?

2. The garden snail is even slower than the sloth. It takes about an hour to travel 15 metres.

- How long would a snail take to travel 45 metres?
- How far would the snail travel in 15 minutes?
- How long would it take the snail to travel along this path? (The scale is 1 cm : 0.5 m.)

3. One of the slowest flying birds is the American woodcock. It flies at about 8 kilometres per hour.

- How far would it fly in 10 minutes at this speed?
- How long would it take to fly 100 metres?

Investigation

What is the fastest animal you can think of? Find out how quickly it can move and calculate the distance it would travel in 1 minute and then in 10 minutes. How long would it take to travel 100 metres?

