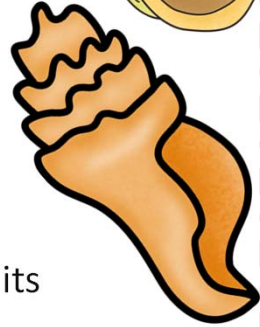


# The Life of Seashells



A seashell is the hard, protective outer layer of a marine mollusk that lives in the ocean. Seashells usually begin their life as larvae, which grow into adult mollusks over the course of several weeks or months. Mollusks are a group of invertebrate animals that include clams, snails, and mussels. The life of a seashell begins when a mollusk creates its outer covering which is an exoskeleton as a form of protection from predators and environmental risks. As the mollusk grows, it continuously adds layers to its exoskeleton, causing the seashell to grow in size. The shape and texture of the shell are determined by the type of mollusk that created it. Most shells are shaped like a cone or spiral, but some are more oblong or cylindrical. Seashells are an important part of marine ecosystems. They provide shelter for small marine creatures such as crabs and hermit crabs, which use empty shells as their homes. They also provide a source of food for other animals, such as birds, fish, and crabs. Seashells can be found all over the world, from the shallow waters of the Caribbean to the deep oceans near the poles. When a seashell is no longer being used by the mollusk, it may be washed up onto a beach or ocean floor. Over time, the shell may be broken down by waves, weather, and other natural processes. Seashells that are not broken down can become part of the beach ecosystem, providing a source of calcium and habitat for other ocean living things. Humans have long been fascinated by seashells and have used them for a variety of purposes, including currency, jewelry, and decorative objects. Today, seashells continue to be popular as souvenirs and decorative items, but it is important to remember that they are also an important part of the natural ecosystem and should be treated with respect and care.



1. Read the passage about "The Life of a Seashell"
2. Underline any word or sentence you don't understand.



Answer according to the reading passage:

**1. How does a seashell start out?**

- a. as a clam
- b. as a mollusk
- c. as a larvae

**2. An exoskeleton is:**

- a. outer covering of a mollusk
- b. the skeleton of a mollusk
- c. a mollusk

**3. Seashells are an important part of the marine ecosystem because:**

- a. they provide shelter to other marine animals
- b. they are a source of food to other animals
- c. both a and b

**4. Most shells are shaped like:**

- a. cones or spirals
- b. triangles and semi-circles
- c. squares and rectangles

**5. Seashells are found:**

- a. shallow waters
- b. deep waters
- c. shallow and deep waters

# The Life of Seashells

## Open Response Questions

Open response questions for thinking skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. What is the importance of seashells
2. Why do seashells appear on the shore?
3. In 3 sentences, summarize the Life of Seashells
4. What comes across your mind and what do you visualize as you are reading this passage?
5. What is your experience with seashells?
6. How many different types of mollusks are there?
7. What uses can you think of to use seashells for?