

Field observations: sea shells

Name:

Grade:

Draw your shell and describe its features:

Size		
Shape		
Colour		
Patterns		
What does it feel like? Is its texture rough or smooth?		

Sea shells belong to the division of animals, or phylum, called Mollusca. There are four kinds or classes of molluscs. Which have you spotted?

- Gastropod:** these shells are one complete piece (univalves). The animals that live inside are snails and slugs. Most of these creatures slowly crawl about grazing but some are filter feeders.
- Bivalves:** shells are hinged and you will usually only find one half. The animal that once lived inside this shell was a filter feeder.
- Cephalopods:** otherwise know as cuttlefish and squid, these creatures have internal shells.
- Chitons:** shells comprise of 8 overlapping shell plates across their backs all held together with a big muscle.

