



SHELL DETECTIVES

The following information is useful in identifying seashells.

1. Single Shell (Gastropod) or Two Shells (Bivalve)
2. Surface Ornamentation (Pattern of Lines)
3. Shell Shape
4. Shell Anatomy
5. Shell Color
6. Where Collected

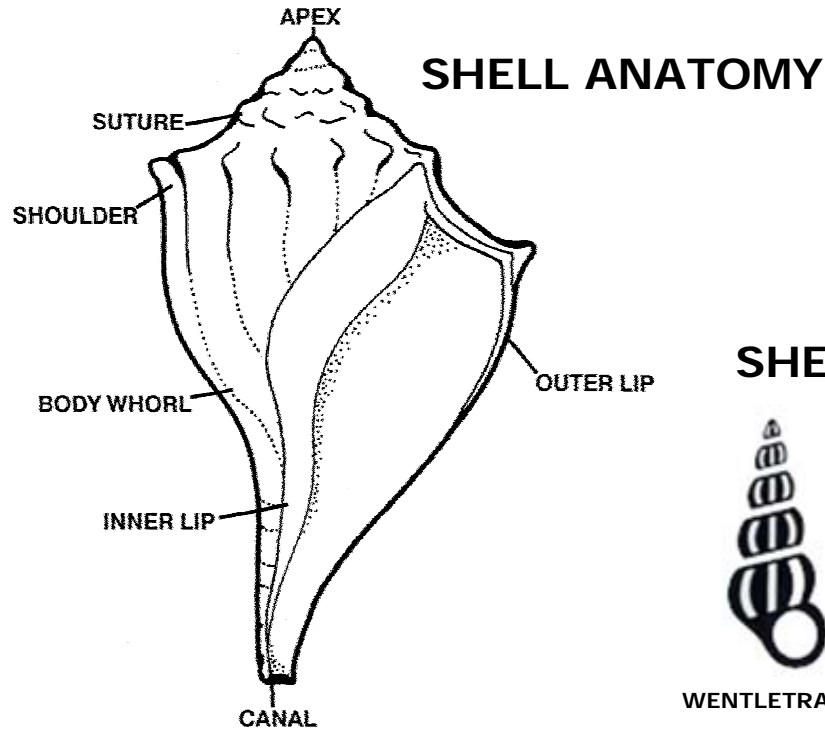
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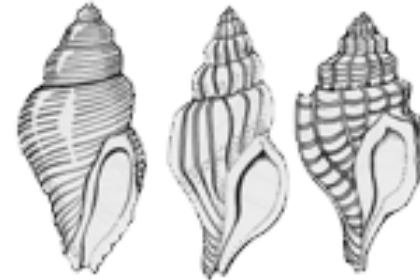


SHELL DETECTIVES

Single Shell = Gastropod



ORNAMENTATION

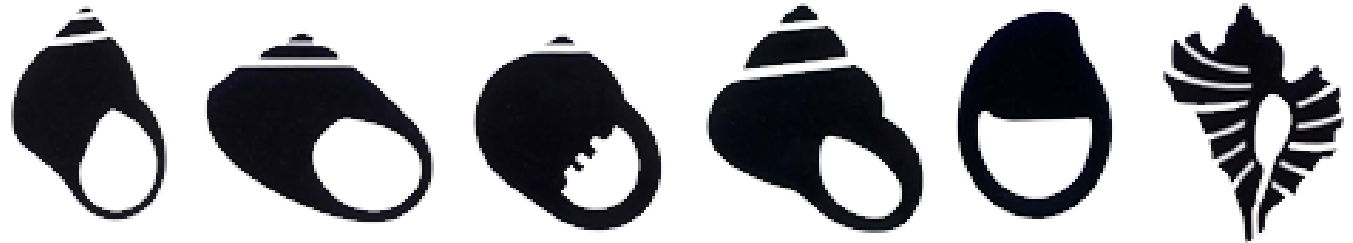


SPIRAL AXIAL CROSSED

SHELL SHAPE



WENTLETRAPS OLIVESHHELLS HORNSNAILS SPINDLESHELLS WHELKS DOVESNAILS

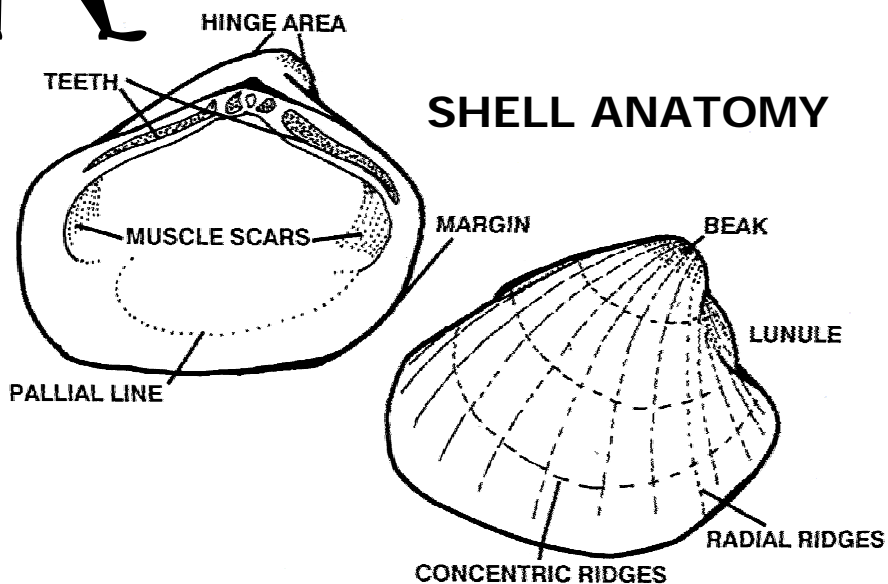


PERIWINKLES MOONSNAILS NERITES TOPSNAILS SLIPPERSHELLS MUREX'S



SHELL DETECTIVES

Two Shells = Bivalve



ORNAMENTATION



CONCENTRIC

RADIAL

CROSSED

SHELL SHAPE



JACKKNIFE CLAMS



TELLINS



ARKS



SURFLAMS



ANGEL WINGS



COCKLES



JINGLESHELLS



MUSSELS



OYSTERS



SCALLOPS



VENUS CLAMS

Common Georgia Seashells

BEACH

Ark Clam



Coquina Clams



Lettered Olive



Giant Atlantic Cockle



Dosinia



Moon Snail



OYSTER REEF

Oyster



Hooked Mussel



Oyster Drill



Knobbed Whelk



Banded Tulip



MUD FLAT

Mud Snail



Hard Clam



Razor Clam



Lightning Whelk



Angelwing



SALT MARSH

Marsh Periwinkle



Melampus



Ribbed Mussel



Shell Glossary

Gastropod



Aperture: shell opening

Apex: tip of shell, oldest part

Axis: imaginary line from apex to the base

Body Whorl: last full turn of shell, includes aperture

Canal: open channel at the base of the shell

Columella: thickened pillar whorls are built around

Inner Lip: aperture lip from columella base to suture

Outer Lip: lip of aperture furthest from axis of shell

Operculum: a plate that closes the aperture

Ribs: axial ridgelike sculpture on shell surface

Shoulder: flattened part of each whorl, below suture

Spiral: sculpture or color band that follows spiral turns

Spire: all whorls above the aperture or body whorl

Suture: line separating adjoining turns or whorls

Turreted: whorls form a high conical spire

Umbilicus: a hollow around the axis near base of shell


Whorl: one of the full coils of the shell

Bivalve



Beak: oldest part of the shell

Byssus: tough fibers which anchor shells to objects

Equilateral: beak is central 

Equivalve: when valves are same shape and size

Growth Lines: ridge formed when area at shell margin

Hinge Area: top of shell where two valves meet

Ligament: elastic structure joining valves

Lunule: curved/heart shaped area on hinge line

Muscle Scar: impression inside shell of muscles

Oval: elliptical, both ends equally curved 

Ovate: elliptical, one end broader 

Pallial Line: line inside shell between muscle scars

Rays: streaks or lines of color

Ribs: radial sculpture running outward from beak

Teeth: bumps of different shapes & sizes in hinge area

Umbo: portion above the hinge line, ends at beak

Valve: one of two parts of the shell