

NAME THAT MOLLUSK!

Can you match the mollusk to its description?

Mollusks are very important for the Peconic Estuary's water quality because some of them are filter feeders! Using two siphons (like straws), they drink up water to eat algae while also taking small particles and toxins out of the water. This improves water clarity which makes our estuary healthier!



ANSWER KEY



Bay Scallop

1. This mollusk can swim and has up to 40 blue eyes that see light and dark!



Oyster

2. This mollusk has a rough shell, can be found as a "reef" and creates pearls when they use mucus to coat a grain of sand or parasite that irritates their skin. The mucus hardens into a beautiful pearl!



Knobbed Whelk
Illustration: Akelele

3. This mollusk only has one shell which makes it a Univalve mollusk unlike a Bivalve mollusk which has two. This mollusk is a predator and eats other mollusks!



Ribbed Mussel
Illustration: cwc.lumcon.edu

4. This mollusk can be found in clusters around the grasses of salt marshes. When they filter feed, they absorb the pollutants from the runoff of the land, making it cleaner before entering the estuary!



Hard Clam

5. This mollusk has a 'foot' that burrows the animal into the sand allowing it to hide from predators like sea stars. Sea stars can pry open the two shells with its tube feet, get to the soft tissue of the mollusk, and enjoy a ____ chowder soup!