



# Nudeles Skidoodles

## Sea shell tongue twister

Sally sells seashells by the seashore.  
She sells seashells on the seashell shore.  
The seashells she sells are seashore shells,  
Of that I'm sure.  
She sells seashells by the seashore.  
She hopes she will sell all her seashells soon.

## How to hunt for seashells

1. Find a local tide chart.
2. Do a walk by at low tide.
3. Note the high tide line areas that have collected the most debris.
4. Return at high tide or just after on the following morning.
5. Begin combing at those high debris areas you already identified.
6. Collect your shells in plastic, or if possible, nylon mesh bags.
7. Rinse in fresh water at home.
8. Buff and polish the best ones for your collection.

## Tips:

During that initial walk by, keep your eyes open for shells, but the early morning return will net more. Serious beachcombers often bring garden variety rakes along with them. Bring along an extra plastic bag for man-made trash; there will be less of it to sort through the following day.

## Top five beginning collector shells

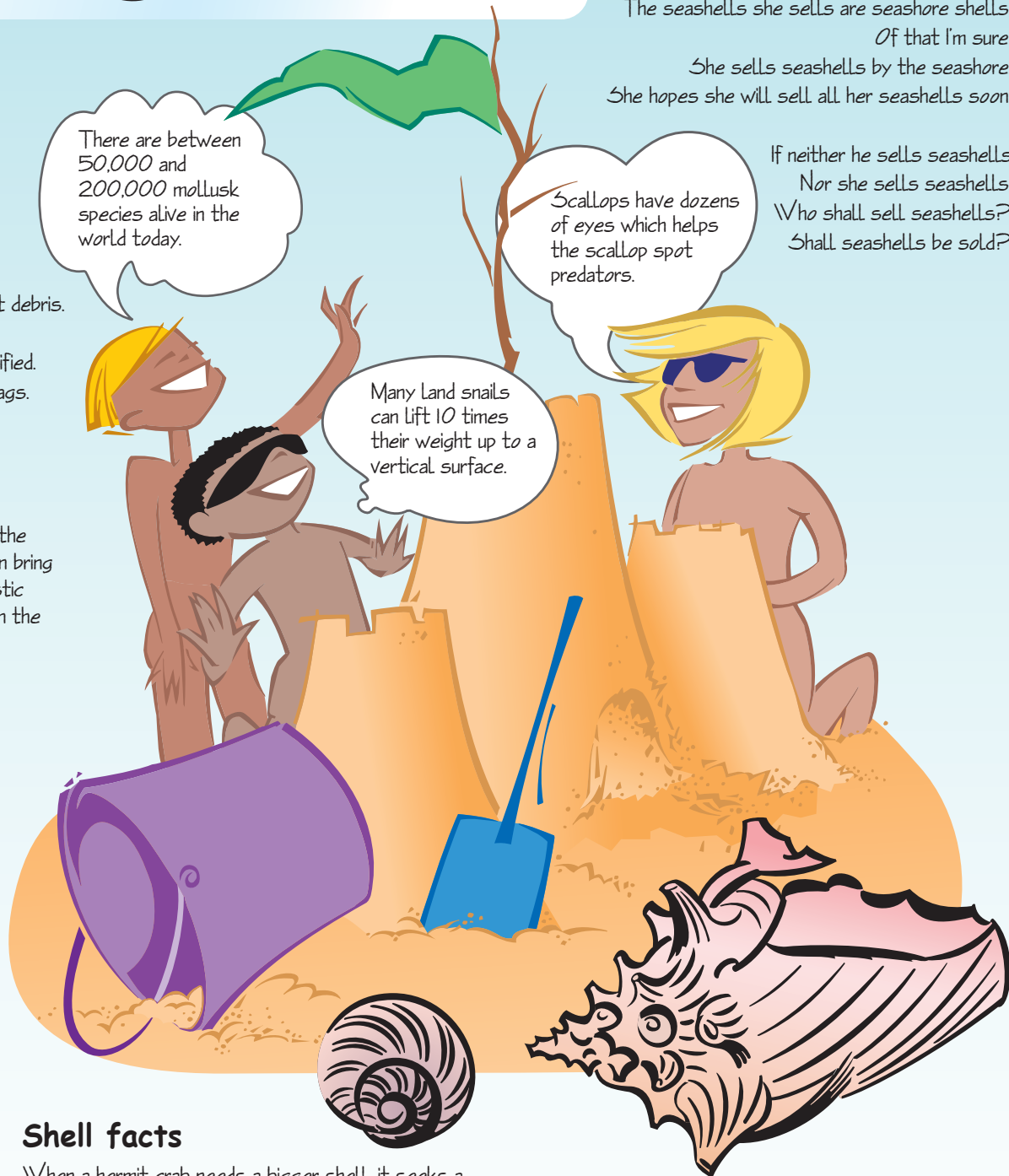
1. **CONCH SHELLS**—The conch is the common name applied to many species of mollusks. Most conchs live in colonies and are found in sand and grassy areas. They are sometimes called the sea cows of the shell world because they are herbivores, grazing on the algae and sea grass.

2. **SCALLOP SHELLS**—Scallops are one of the few bivalve shells that actually swim. This is accomplished by rapidly opening and closing their valves, sending the shell backward. Most species live in tropical waters, but several live in polar waters. Each half or valve of a scallop features a different coloring/design. The muscle is the part consumed by humans.

3. **ARK CLAMS**—Ark shells number about 200 in species and come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The outer skin of the ark shell acts as a camouflage, matching the surroundings of its environment looking like stones on the bottom of the water. Ark shells are commonly used as bait as well as food throughout the Caribbean.

4. **WHELK SHELL**—This large family of 800 species worldwide live in shallow waters and in mud flats. The whelk is an active predator, and pries open a clam or oyster shell by surrounding it with its muscular foot. Tropical whelks tend to be small and are often brightly colored or covered with rows of fine beads.

5. **TOP SHELL**—This family includes around 180 species found throughout the world. Tops vary in size and color, but all have a pyramidal shape. They are found in tidal rock pools as well as deep ocean depths and feed on seaweed and sponges.



## Shell facts

When a hermit crab needs a bigger shell, it seeks a larger empty snail shell and moves in. Without a shell provided by a snail, it's naked.

We hear the sound of the ocean inside large shells because the shell echoes surrounding sounds, jumbling them and making them louder.

It takes about two years to grow one pearl. Some clams grow pearls as big as golf balls in 10 years' time.

Nudibranch is a mollusk family that doesn't have a shell.

Color pigment affects shell color. An abalone that eats red seaweed produces a red shell.

## What are seashells?

A seashell is the most universally identifiable part of a creature known as a mollusk. Mollusks are invertebrate animals (think of a snail) with an unsegmented, basically symmetrical body. Mollusks are descendants from primitive wormlike creatures inched around in the ooze of primeval seas millions of years ago. As dissolving land masses began to feed salts and chemicals into oceans, the first mollusks digested them and eventually used them to build durable shelters.

Today, mollusks not only exist in the ocean, but in fresh water as well as on land. Marine mollusks (commonly referred to as seashells) generally use gills to breath while some terrestrial mollusks (commonly referred to as snails) have lungs. The shell serves as an exo-skeleton to protect the soft bodies against the outside world. The shell is actually only loosely attached and does not provide support or rigidity to the animal. In fact, some mollusks including octopus and squid do not utilize a shell at all.

