Mollusks

A mollusk is an invertebrate. They are soft-bodied animals that do not have any bones at all. One characteristic of mollusks is that they all have a muscular foot that helps them move, dig, or, in more developed mollusks, catch prey. Another trait/characteristic that most mollusks share is a body that has three parts: **head, foot,** and **body mass**. Sense organs are found in the head.

Mollusks



The body mass contains the heart and other organs. A mantle covers the organs. The mantle is a fleshy covering that protects the organs. In most mollusks, the mantle produces materials that form one or two shells. The conch, octopus, squid, snail, and oyster are examples of mollusks.

There are three types of mollusks

No Shell	One Shell	Two Shell
slug squid octopus	conch snail curd whelk	oyster clam mussel scallop



The No Shell **mollusks** don't have any shell covering the outside of its body.

One Shell These mollusks have one shell. The shell has a 'trapdoor' covering the opening. The animal can pull its head back into the opening and shut the trap door. In this way, the animal is protected from enemies.

Two Shells These mollusks have a double shell that is hinged. They get their food by filtering it from the water. Tube like parts is used for feeding.

The **queen conch** is one of the largest marine snails. It is used for food. It feeds on algae found on seaweed, sand and floating organic debris. The queen conch also has an important cultural and economic role in The Bahamas. It is vulnerable to overfishing because it matures and moves slowly.

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