

# Clam Dissection

## Introduction

The phylum Mollusca includes snails, clams, chitons, slugs, limpets, octopi, and squid. As mollusks develop from a fertilized egg to an adult, most pass through a larval stage called the trocophore. The trocophore is a ciliated, free-swimming stage. Mollusks also have a radula or file-like organ for feeding, a mantle that may secrete a shell, and a muscular foot for locomotion. Clams are marine mollusks with two valves or shells. Like all mollusks, a clam has a mantle which surrounds its soft body. It also has a muscular foot which enables the clam to burrow itself in mud or sand. The soft tissue above the foot is called the visceral mass and contains the clam's body organs.

## Taxonomy

Kingdom - Animalia

Phylum - Mollusca

Class - Bivalvia or Pelecypoda

## Objective

To study the internal and external anatomy of a bivalve mollusk.

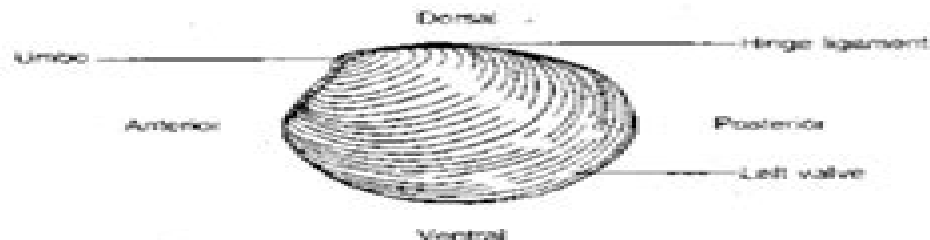
## Materials

Dissecting pan, dissecting kit, screwdriver, lab apron, plastic gloves, safety glasses, preserved clam

## Procedure

1. Put on your safety glasses and plastic gloves.
2. Place a clam in a dissecting tray and identify the **anterior** and **posterior** ends of the clam as well as the **dorsal**, **ventral**, & **lateral** surfaces.

Figure 1

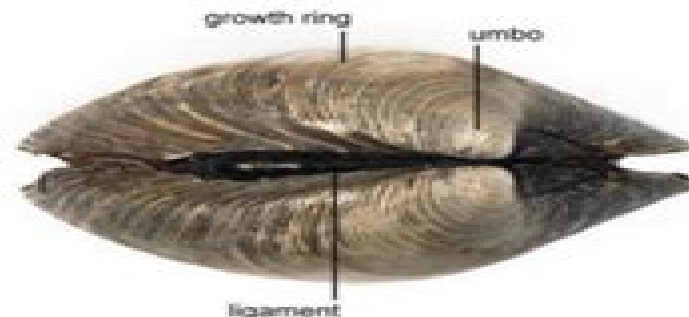


3. Locate the **umbo**, the bump at the anterior end of the valve. This is the oldest part of the clam shell. Find the **hinge ligament** which hinges the valves together and observe the **growth rings**.

Clam - External Features



Clam - External Features



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**Ian Pickup**



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