

Marine Biology Lab: Clam Dissection

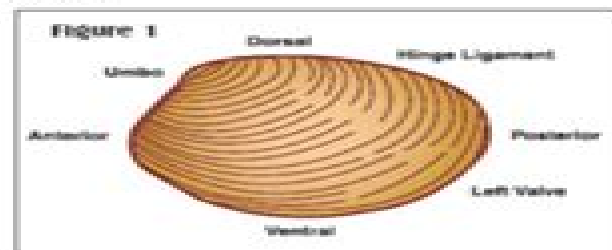
Background: Mollusks live in many diverse parts of the earth and though they share similar characteristics they have taken on many diverse forms. From an evolutionary line that began over 600 million years ago there are over 100,000 different species of mollusks today. They include snails and slugs (class Gastropoda), clams and oysters (Class Bivalvia), and squid and octopus (class Cephalopoda).

Purpose: To examine the internal and external anatomy of the clam.

Materials: Dissecting pan, dissecting tools, safety glasses, preserved clam

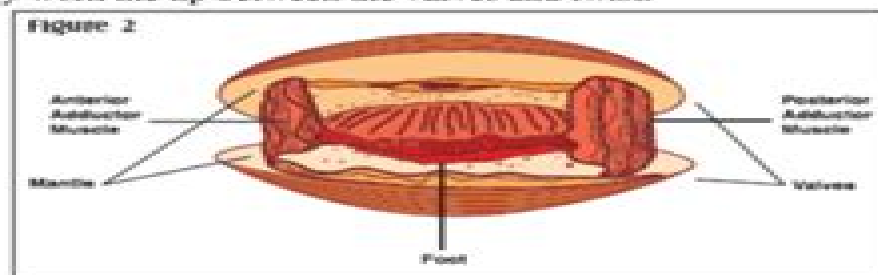
Procedure:

1. Place a clam in a dissecting tray and identify the anterior and posterior ends of the clam as well as the dorsal, ventral, and lateral surfaces. See Figure 1.
2. Locate the umbo, the bump at the anterior end of the valve. This is the oldest part of the clam. Find the hinge ligament that hinges the valves together and observe the growth rings.



Opening the Clam

3. Turn the clam with its dorsal side down and pry the two valves open by carefully inserting the forceps. Carefully work the tip between the valves and twist.
4. Pry the valves apart so they are about a centimeter apart. Locate the adductor muscles as in Figure 2. With your blade pointing toward the dorsal edge, slide your scalpel between the upper valve and the top tissue layer. Cut through the anterior adductor muscle, cutting as close to the shell as possible. Repeat and cut the posterior adductor muscle.
5. Bend the left valve back so it lies flat in the tray.



Observations of the External Structure of the Clam

6. Draw the external structure of the clam and identify the dorsal, ventral, anterior, posterior, umbo and hinge ligament.

7. What is the texture of the calm shell?

8. Take the following measurements:

- a. Length from the anterior to posterior sides (cm) _____
- b. Width from the dorsal to the ventral sides (cm) – _____
- c. Weight in grams – _____

Marine Biology Lab Clam Dissection Answers

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Marine Biology Lab Clam Dissection Answers:

Unveiling the Magic of Words: A Overview of "**Marine Biology Lab Clam Dissection Answers**"

In a global defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their capability to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is really awe-inspiring. Enter the realm of "**Marine Biology Lab Clam Dissection Answers**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned with a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve to the book is central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound impact on the souls of its readers.

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