

4th Grade Sample Reading Selection #2

Seashell Secrets

delicate—easy to break or hurt
mobile—able to move

1 When you walk along the beach, you almost always find seashells. There are thousands of shells in the sea and on land. The waves from the ocean toss the shells up onto the shore. Some shells look pretty and are very delicate. Other seashells are beautiful and strong.

Shells Are Important

2 Shells protect the animals living inside them. *Mollusks* (mol uhks), soft-bodied animals like clams and snails, form shells. The animal's body makes a liquid. The liquid leaks from the animal's body. When the liquid becomes hard, it forms a shell. As the animal gets bigger, it creates more shell-making liquid. The shell grows as the animal grows.

3 The shells scattered on the beach were once the homes of mollusks. They provide safety and shelter. Both sea and land mollusks pull their bodies into their rugged shells when danger approaches.

4 The strong shells also keep mollusks moist when there is no water. Twice a day there is a low tide in the ocean. When the tide is low there is less water on the beach. Without water, the animal in the shell may die. However, the shell holds water that allows the mollusk to stay moist until high tide comes along to wash it back into the sea.

Types of Shells

5 Some mollusks have one-piece shells. A snail is an example of an animal living in a single shell. Other mollusks, like clams, mussels, and oysters, have two-part shells. Each half of the shell is exactly the same, and they fit together perfectly. The two parts are connected together at one point. The mollusk uses strong muscles to snap the pieces of its shell together. Sometimes the animals close the shell for protection, and sometimes the animals move by opening and closing the shell.

6 Shells come in many colors. Some shells have stripes and spots, and others have fancy designs. The designs allow the animal to look like the area around it. If the animals are not seen, then they are protected.

7 Shells can be many different sizes and shapes. Some are no bigger than a grain of rice, and others are as big as a television set. Seashells are very useful homes for mollusks.

1. In paragraph 4, moist means

- A damp.
- B slippery.
- C hard.
- D rough.

2. In paragraph 3, provide means

- A supply.
- B show.
- C accept.
- D help.

3. In paragraph 5, what kind of shell does a snail have?

- A double
- B delicate
- C single
- D colorful

4. The reader can tell that mollusks

- A are dangerous animals that should be avoided.
- B spend their entire lives buried under sand.
- C are the most common animals in the ocean.
- D could not survive long without a shell.

5. The most important fact from this selection is

- A some shells have designs.
- B some shells have stripes.
- C a shell can be as big as a television.
- D a shell is a home for an animal.

Why Shells Are Important

1. protect the animal from danger
2. provide a home for the animal
3. _____

6. Which statement should be added to the outline?

- A keep the animal from washing out to sea
- B make the animal easier to see
- C help the animal crawl around
- D keep the animal from drying out

7. The reader can tell that snails

- A have not always had shells.
- B need shells for decoration.
- C could not live without shells.
- D use shells to store food.

8. Which sentence is an opinion?

- A Some shells are pretty and delicate.
- B There are thousands of shells in the sea and on land.
- C Shells protect the animals living inside them.
- D The two parts are fastened together at one point.

9. A reason to read this selection is to

- A amuse.
- B inform.
- C persuade.
- D encourage.

10. What would be the best place in a science textbook to look for information about mollusks?

- A table of contents
- B glossary
- C index
- D chapter headings

11. Between which two guide words in a dictionary would mollusk be listed?

- A modern, molasses
- B molt, monkey
- C mockingbird, mole
- D mold, moment

12. Which book would be the best source of information about clams?

- A *A Day at the Beach*
- B *Great Pets for Aquariums*
- C *101 Craft Projects with Shells*
- D *Amazing Sea Animals*

13. How does the author of “Seashell Secrets” draw attention to important ideas?

- A important words are underlined
- B headings are in bold print
- C quotation marks are around special words
- D new words are at the bottom of the page

13. The section headings are boldfaced because they

- A tell what the next paragraph is about.
- B explain the paragraph before the boldface.
- C let the reader skip the paragraph.
- D describe the main idea of the entire passage.

14. To find out if a book has current information, look at the

- A number of pages in the book.
- B copyright date on the title page.
- C table of contents.
- D name of the publisher.

15. Where might a student look in a science book to find more information about shells?

- A appendix
- B table of contents
- C index
- D glossary

16. Which study method would be most useful in learning the new words in “Seashell Secrets”?

- A Write each new word 10 times.
- B Say the words several times.
- C Make a word web of the new words.
- D List the new words in alphabetical order.

17. What would be the best thing to do to understand the meaning of mollusk?

- A Look at the title again.
- B Use the word in a sentence.
- C Read the first line in every paragraph.
- D Use context clues to find the definition.

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	State Obj.:	DOK:	ANSWER:
1.	1.1	2	A
2.	1.1	2	A
3.	3.1.b	1	C
4.	3.2.b	2	D
5.	3.3.a	2	D
6.	3.3.c	2	D
7.	3.4.a	2	C
8.	3.4.c	2	A
9.	4.2.b	2	B
10.	5.1.a	2	C
11.	5.1.a	2	D
12.	5.1.b	2	D
13.	5.1.d	2	B
14.	5.1.e	2	B
15.	5.1.e	2	A
16.	5.1.f	2	C
17.	5.1.f	2	D

Grade 4 Reading Sample Selection #2

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