



Seashells come in all shapes, sizes and colours. Shells are created by the animals that live inside them — the soft-bodied molluscs.

Some of the more common seashells are shown below. Have you seen any of these on beaches near where you live?



Gastropod



Bivalve (2 shells)

Rocky shore



Common periwinkle
Littorina littorea
Up to 3 cm



Dog whelk
Nucella lapillus
Up to 5 cm



Common whelk
Buccinum undatum
Up to 10 cm



Blue mussel
Mytilus edulis
Up to 15 cm



Thick top shell
Phorcus lineatus
Up to 3.5 cm



Common limpet
Patella vulgata
Up to 6 cm



Painted top shell
Calliostoma zizyphinum
Up to 3 cm



Flat periwinkle
Littorina obtusata
Up to 2 cm



Sandy shore



Necklace shell
Euspira catena
Up to 3 cm



Pod razor shell
Ensis siliqua
Up to 20 cm



Common cockle
Cerastoderma edule
Up to 6 cm



Slipper limpet
Crepidula fornicata
Up to 10 cm



Baltic tellin
Macoma balthica
Up to 3 cm



Banded wedge shell
Donax vittatus
Up to 4 cm



Common piddock
Pholas dactylus
Up to 15 cm



Otter shell
Lutraria lutraria
Up to 15 cm

