

# What Lives in a Shell?

by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

An interesting book about shells that act as homes for many ocean animals, such as; snails, turtles, crabs, clams, and oysters. The science is good, and the explanations should cause young readers to want to learn more.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Have you ever found a shell?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder who all the shells are from?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *What Lives in a Shell?*

- stone: a small piece of rock of any shape
- glass: a hard, usually transparent substance that shatters easily
- hollow: having empty space inside
- tunnel: an underground passage dug by an animal
- cave: a large, hollowed-out place in the ground
- safe: unlikely to cause or result in harm, injury, or damage
- pokes: to stick out of or through an opening
- opening: a gap or hole in something
- enemy: somebody who hates or seeks to harm somebody or something
- bumpy: having a rough or uneven surface
- rounded: curved
- frightened: to make somebody feel fear
- pats: to touch somebody or something repeatedly
- seashore: land lying next to the ocean
- claws: a animals sharp nail
- armor: something that gives protection
- outgrow: to grow too large for something
- underneath: beneath something, and perhaps covered by it
- tight: fitting the body very closely
- carefully: watchful and protective about something
- ranger / game warden: somebody whose job is to oversee, protect, and patrol a forest or an area of natural beauty such as a national park

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Can you name some animals that live in a shell?
- What animal is born with a little shell and never leaves home? How does it move?
- What type of shell does a turtle have? Baby turtle?
- What happens as a baby turtle grows?
- How many legs does a turtle have?
- When there's a sign of danger, what does the turtle do?
- Can you tell me who would win a race between a frog and a turtle? A cat and turtle?
- How many legs does a crab have? How many claws?
- What happens when a crab outgrows its shell?
- What kind of crab lives in an empty snail shell?
- How many legs do clams and oysters have? Do they have a head or tail?
- How many shells do clams, oysters, and scallops have?
- Can you tell me how scallops swim?
- What does it mean if a shell is empty?
- Should you ask someone before you take shells from a national park? Who?



**Do**

## Shell Magic

Put a bean under one of three shells. Move the shells around. Invite the children to guess which shell is hiding the bean.