

# What are the Body Parts of an Oyster?



Mason Conservation District

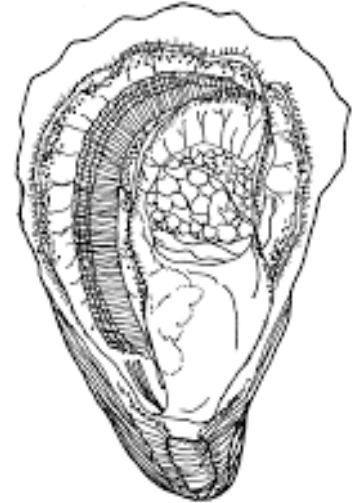


PACIFIC SHELLFISH INSTITUTE

Watch this 3-minute oyster dissection video:

<https://youtu.be/HdMiMb0cHKI>

When you visit the beach, you will likely find shellfish. Many shellfish like clams, oysters, and mussels are bivalves, meaning they have 2 **valves**, or shells. The shells are used for protection and are held together by a strong **adductor muscle**. Inside the oyster, the body parts are covered by the **mantle**. The mantle is rimmed with **tentacles** that sense the world around it. Shellfish are filter feeders that use **gills** to breathe and also filter food from seawater. Food passes from the gills to mouth-like **palps** before entering the **stomach** where digestion takes place. From there, waste moves out of the oyster through the **anus**. Similar to us, the oyster has a **heart** that pumps blood throughout the body.



Shellfish are an important food source for people, birds and other animals. They also improve water quality by filter feeding. One oyster can filter 50 gallons of water per day!

**Draw a line connecting the body part (left) to its function (on the right).**

Adductor Muscle	Covers organs, has tentacles
Heart	Mouth-like, sorts food from non-food
Mantle	Used for breathing, filtering
Stomach	Pumps blood through body
Gills	Protects the oyster
Anus	Digests food
Palps	Closes the oyster
Valve or Shell	Eliminates waste

## Create an Oyster Body Parts Puzzle!

1. Color the oyster body parts.
2. Cut out the body part puzzle pieces.
3. Glue the body parts onto the shell.
4. Label the body parts.

