



What are the shells that you find at the beach? They are the hard remains of a group of animals called MOLLUSCS.

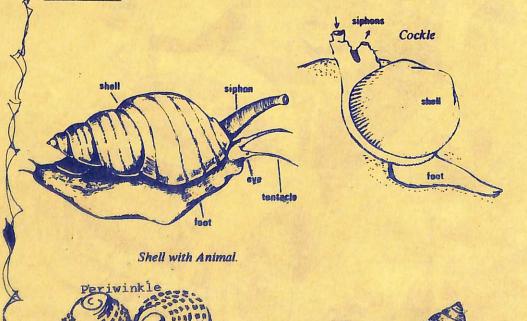
These animals have a soft slug-like body which makes a hard shell to protect itself.

It has to protect itself from predators like birds which will eat them,

It has to protect itself from the rough seas and weather.

Most of the shells you find belong to one of two large groups of molluscs.

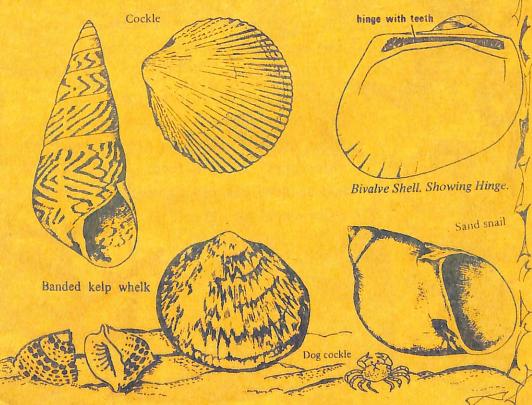
They are either <u>GASTROPODS</u> OR <u>SNAILS</u> or <u>BIVALVES</u>.

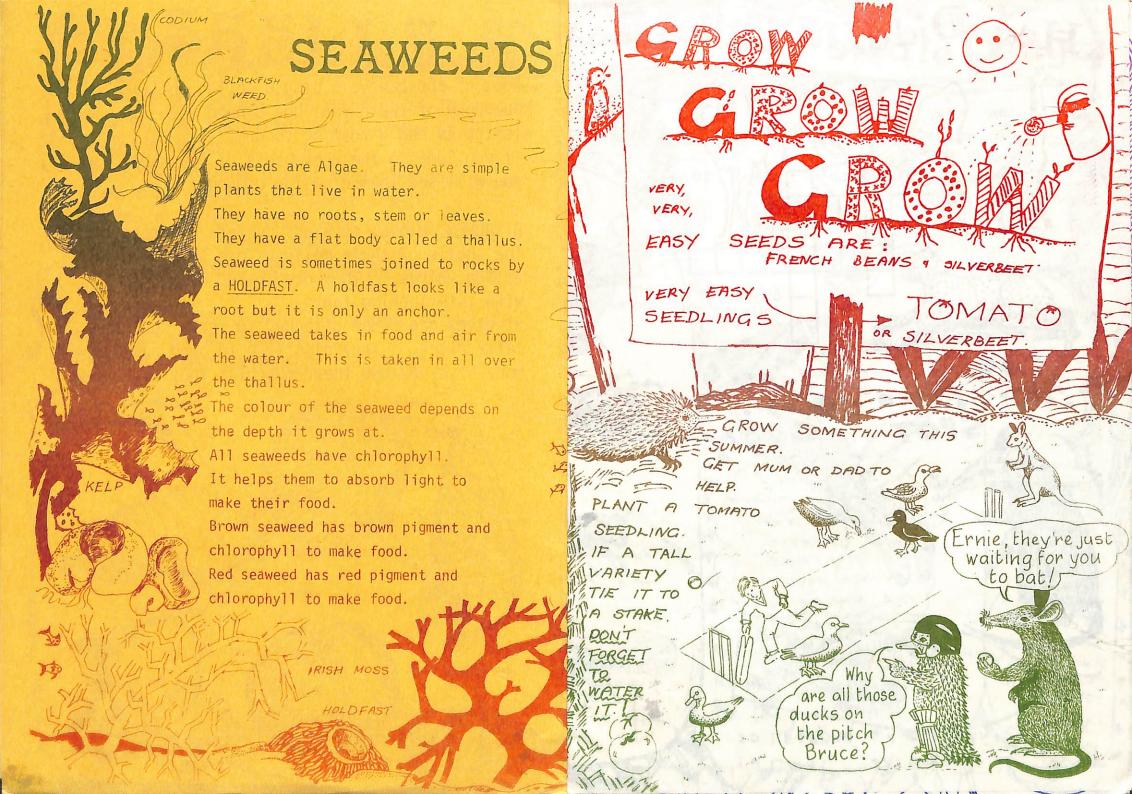


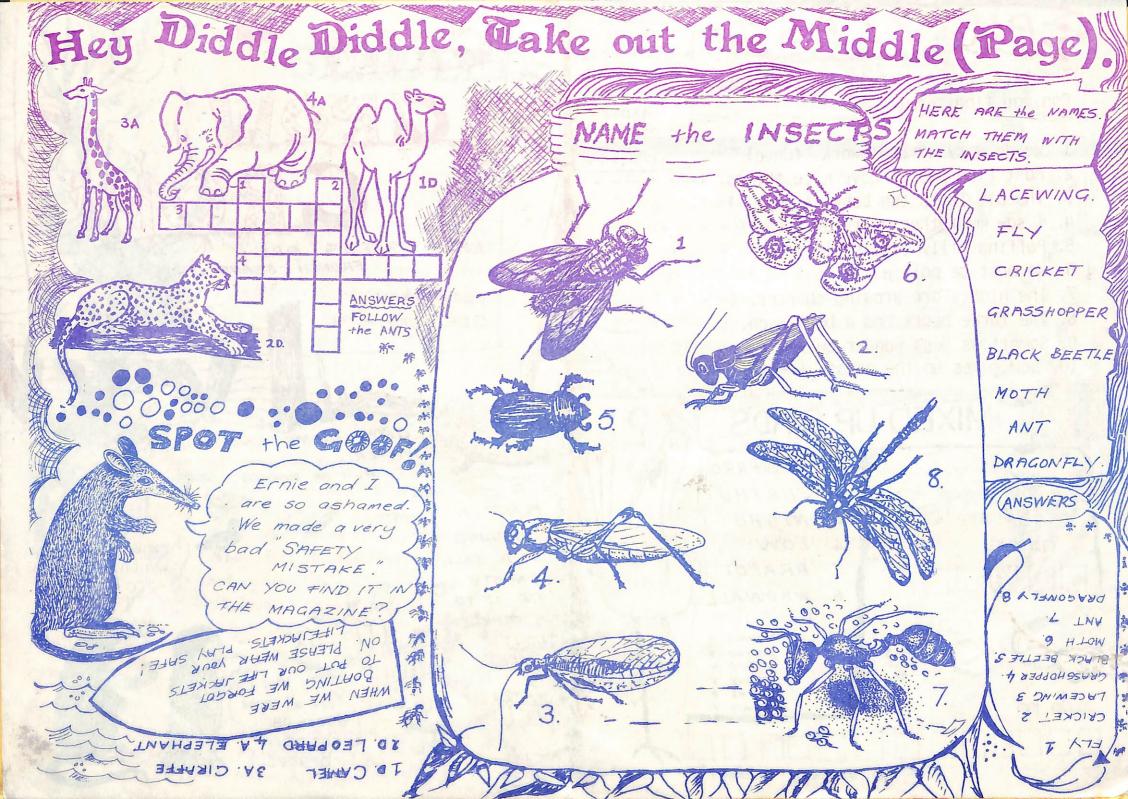
GASTROPODS or (snails or univalves)
Most of these have a single coiled shell.
The body of the animal has a head with
tentacles and a rasping tongue.
If you look in the rock pools at low tide
you will see them crawling around.

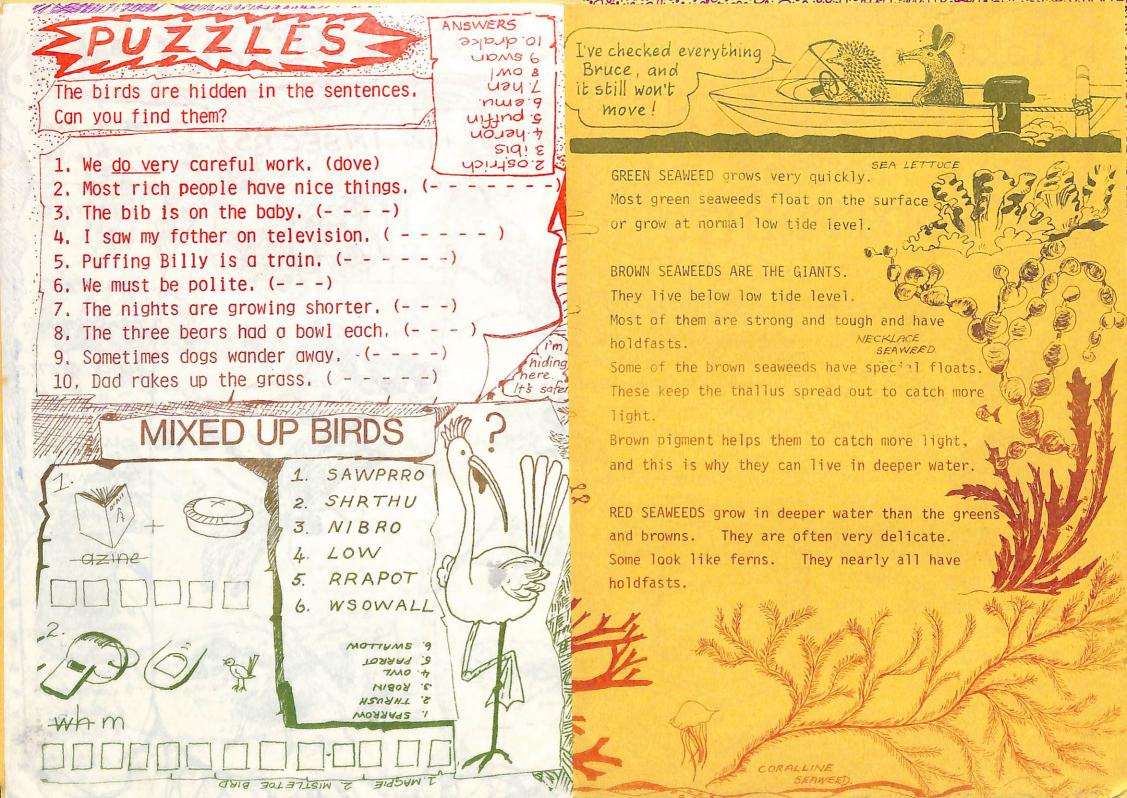
<u>BIVALVES</u>, clams, cockles, oysters and mussels. The shells of these molluscs are in two parts called valves. They are joined by a hinge with interlocking teeth.

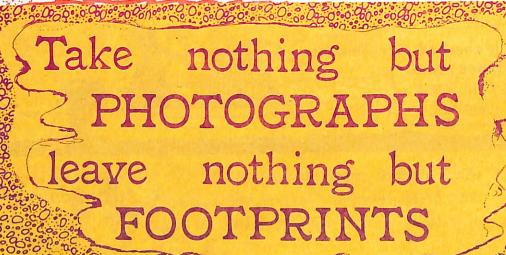
Bivalves are found attached to rocks and jetty piles. They also live in sand and mud. Many bivalves use their muscular foot to burrow.









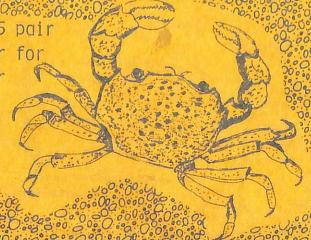




with their tentacles as it washes past. When they are disturbed or out of water they fold their tentacles tightly inwards.

Crabs usually have 5 pair of legs. Four pair for walking and one pair with nippers.

DO NOT pick up a crab by the legs as they can break off.

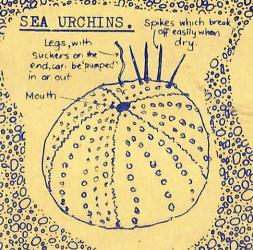




An adult barnacle never moves from his rock or pier He uses his 6 pairs of legs to catch food. His shell is closed tightly until water washes over him. He top and puts out his hairy legs.

The hairs on his legs catch tiny pieces of animal life as it floats by

The hole on the underside of the starfish is its mouth. It eats by bringing its stomach out of its mouth, covering and digesting the food, and its stomach slides back inside.



Some Sea Urchins are poisonous. Take care. Most sea urchins eat seaweed. When they are alive they have moveable spines, and tube like waving feet that suck hold of things.

Pacific Gull



The Pacific Gull is a scavenger.

It cleans the beaches of dead and dying sea animals and birds.

But, they do not scavenge from humans like their cousin the Silver Gull.

Seabirds are able to drink seawater.

Salt builds up in special glands above each eye, and is then released out of the

nostrils.

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