

ALABAMA

4-H

MARINE

PROGRAM



# Intertidal Life along the Northern Gulf

MASGC-H-78-001

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MASGP-78-025



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## Sea Grant Advisory Service

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FOR THE MISSISSIPPI-ALABAMA SEA GRANT CONSORTIUM

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This work is partially sponsored by NOAA  
Office of Sea Grant, U. S. Dept. of Commerce  
under Grant #04-7-158-44017.

## GLOSSARY

Intertidal Zone	--area between the highest high tide and the lowest low tide.	Marsh	--low, soft, wet land that is usually a productive nursery area for young organisms.
Organism	--any living thing.	Habitat	--the region or type of environment where an organism is found.
Biology	--study of the physical characteristics, habits, etc. of plants and animals.		

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Clayton A. Umbach, Jr., Director, Book Publishing, Gulf Publishing Company and the California Sea Grant Program for allowing us to use their materials.

Adapted from:

Deweese, C. M. 1974. Identifying Intertidal Plants and Animals. California Sea Grant Marine Advisory Publication AXT-445-1.

Fotheringham, N. and S. L. Brunemeister. 1975. Common Marine Invertebrates of the Northwestern Gulf Coast. Gulf Publishing Company, Houston, Texas.

If you have ever visited Alabama's seashore, you know that a great variety of animals live along the shoreline in the intertidal zone. But how many of these animals can you identify? How much do you know about them?

This guide is designed to help you start learning the common seashore organisms of Alabama. Use the references to help identify the organisms and to learn more about them.

Look at the drawings in this guide so you can recognize these intertidal animals when you go to the seashore. Use the identification sheets to keep a record of the organisms you find. Add more sheets if you identify organisms that are not shown in this guide. You may want to make several trips to different shoreline areas to see a greater variety of organisms.

Nearly every square inch of the intertidal zone is used by one organism or another. Look everywhere--in sand, mud, marshes and under jetties.

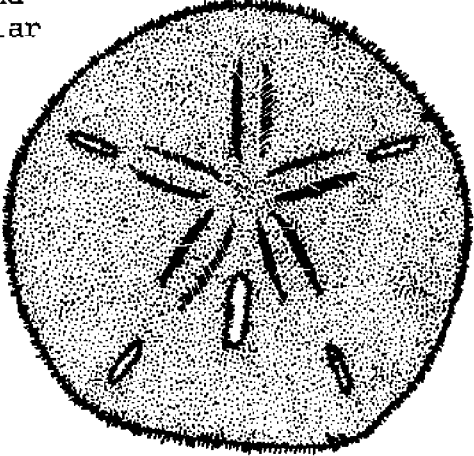

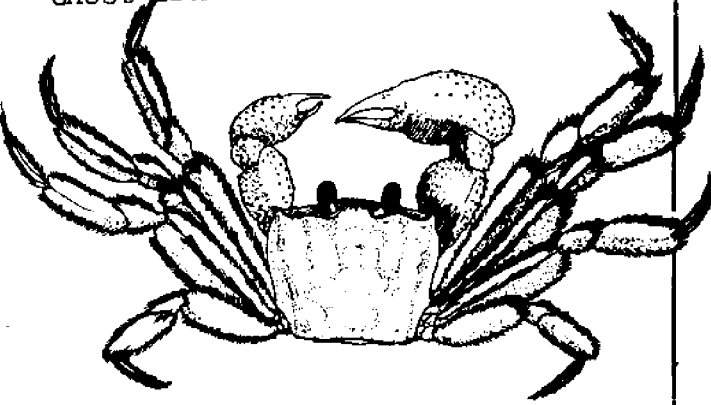
### Safety at the Beach

Tides, waves, strong currents and drifting debris are all potentially dangerous. To enjoy your trips to the beach, be safe--know the hazards that exist and use common sense.

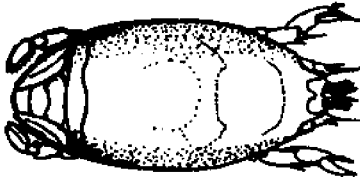
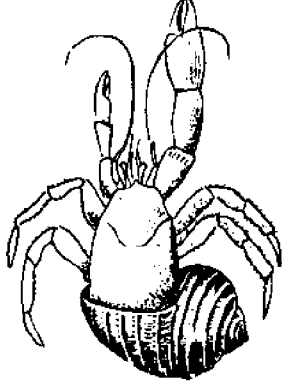
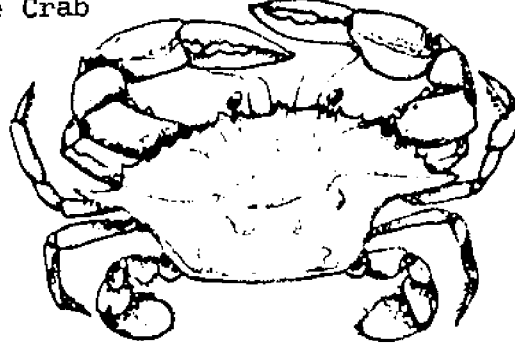

Rip currents, also called undertows, are extremely dangerous to swimmers. You can sometimes see these currents from the beach because the rapidly flowing water carries sand or mud, which discolors the water. Also, the current may carry foam from the surf, creating a trail of foam from the beach seaward. If you want to swim, avoid areas where there are rip currents. If you are caught in a current, swim parallel to the shore until you are out of the current.

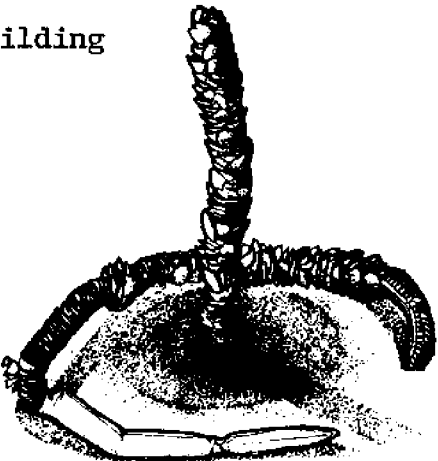


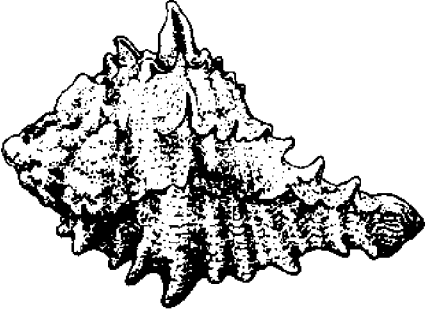
### QUESTIONS

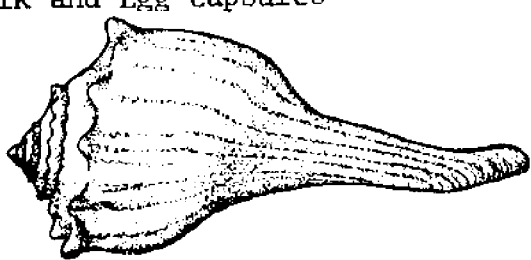
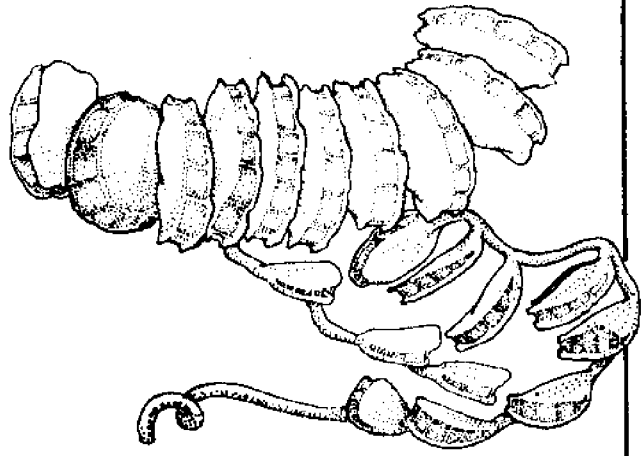
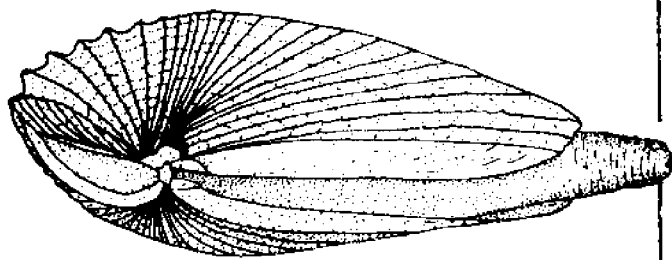
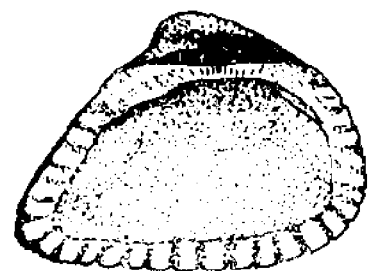
1. Are the organisms found on beaches different than those found in marshes or shallow bays? Why?
2. Which intertidal organisms are able to move around--that is, are not permanently attached to any object (sessile)?
3. What methods do intertidal animals have for feeding?

ORGANISM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT (on or under rocks, in crevices, sand, mud)	NOTES
* Sand Dollar 				
* Lettered Olive 				
* Ghost Crab 				

\* From Common Marine Invertebrates of the Northwestern Gulf Coast by Nick Fotheringham and Susan Lee Bruenmeister. Copyright © 1975 by Gulf Publishing Company, Houston, Texas. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

ORGANISM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT (on or under rocks, in crevices, sand, mud)	NOTES
<p>* Mole Crab</p> 				
<p>Hermit Crab</p> 				
<p>Blue Crab</p> 				
<p>Horseshoe Crab</p> 				

ORGANISM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT (on or under rocks, in crevices, sand, mud)	NOTES
<p>* Tube-building Worms</p> 				
<p>Barnacle</p> 				
<p>* Woodboring Clam in Driftwood</p> 				
<p>* Giant Eastern Murex</p> 				

ORGANISM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT (on or under rocks, in crevices, sand, mud)	NOTES
<p>* Welk and Egg Capsules</p>  				
<p>* Angel Wing</p> 				
<p>* Ponderous Ark</p> 				

ORGANISM

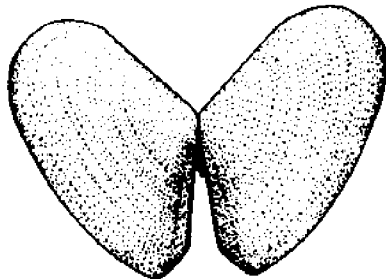
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LOCATION

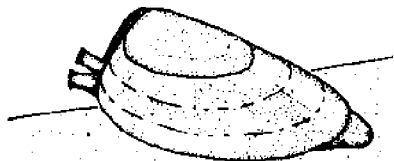
HABITAT  
(on or under  
rocks, in  
crevices,  
sand, mud)

NOTES

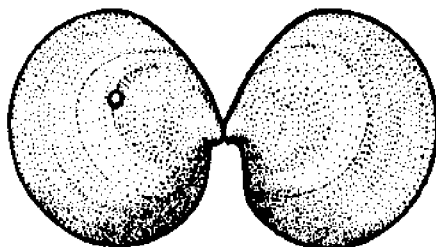
\* Alternate Tellin



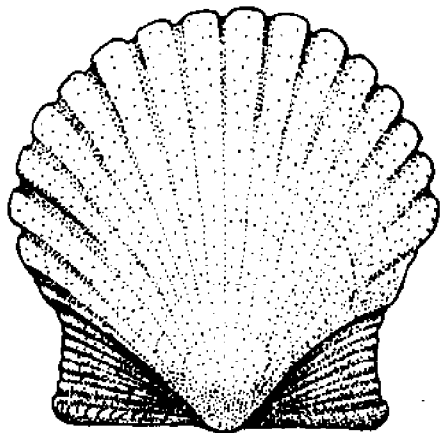
\* Bean Clam



\* Disk Clam



\* Bay Scallop



ORGANISM

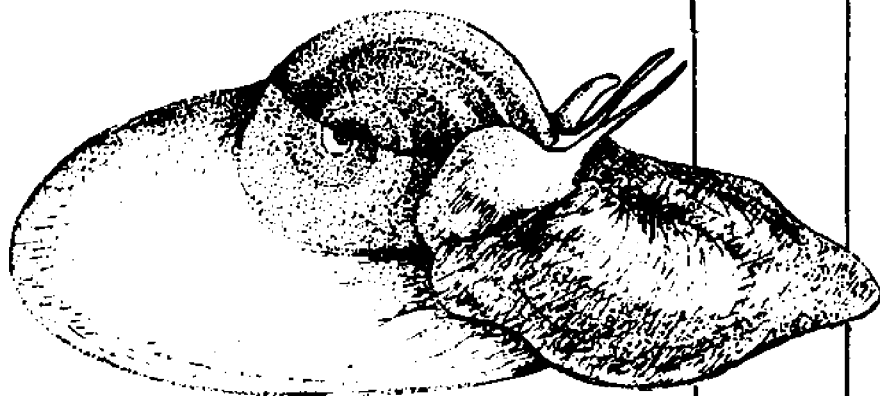
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LOCATION

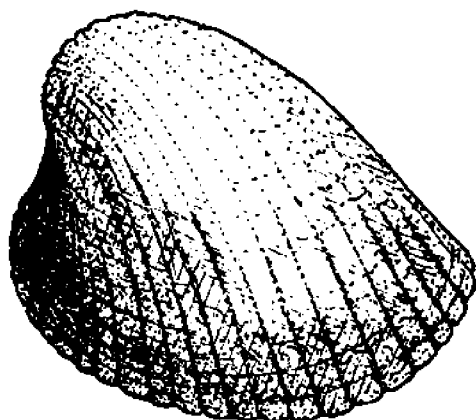
HABITAT  
(on or under  
rocks, in  
crevices,  
sand, mud)

NOTES

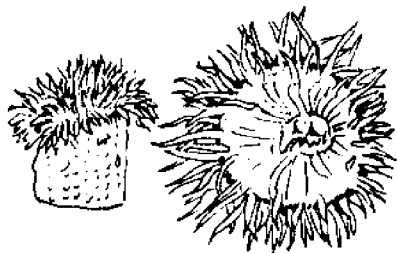
\* Moon Snail

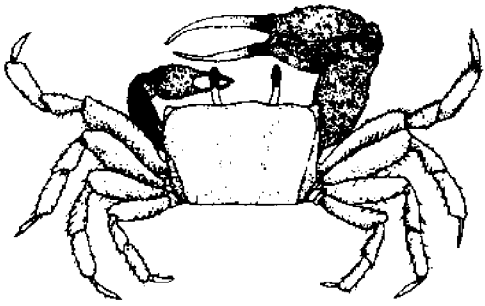
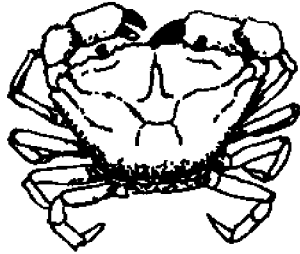
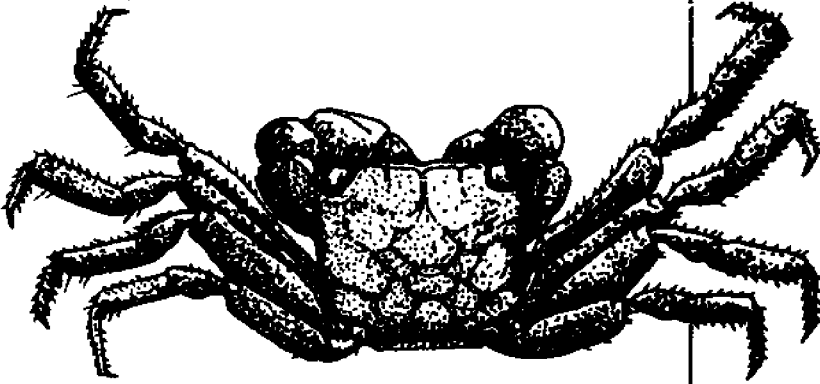
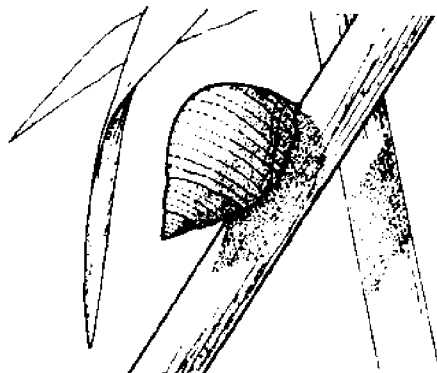


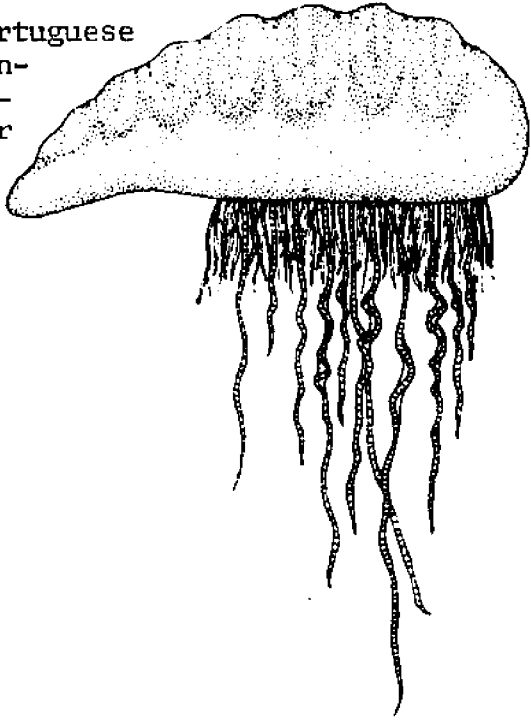
\* Giant Cockle



\* Sea Anemone



ORGANISM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT (on or under rocks, in crevices, sand, mud)	NOTES
<p>* Fiddler Crab</p> 				
<p>* Mud Crab</p> 				
<p>* Marsh Crab</p> 				
<p>* Marsh Periwinkle</p> 				

ORGANISM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT (on or under rocks, in crevices, sand, mud)	NOTES
<p>* Portuguese Man- of- War</p> 				
<p>* Stinging Nettle</p> 