

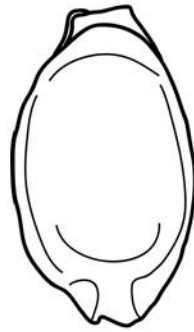
# FIELD GUIDE TO THE SHELLS OF EL NIDO



chambered nautilus



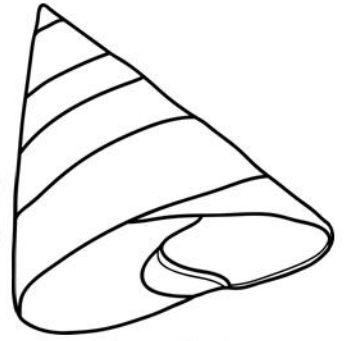
cockle



cowrie



top shell



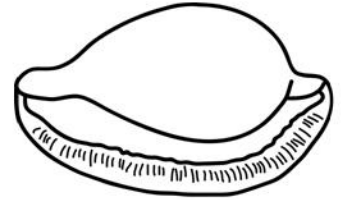
olive shell



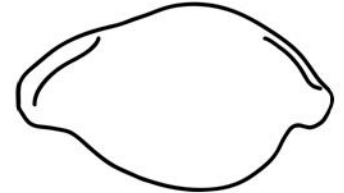
cone shell



miter



false cowrie



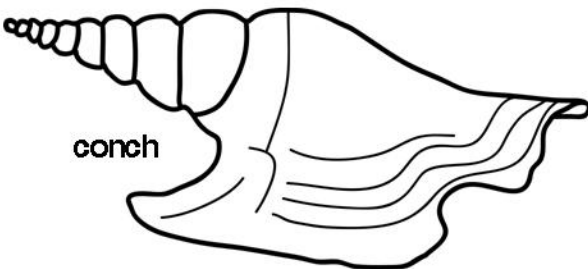
rock shell



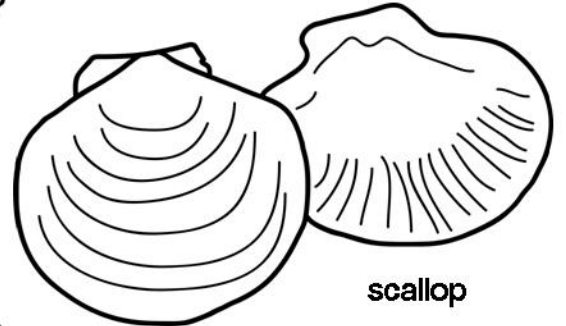
sundial



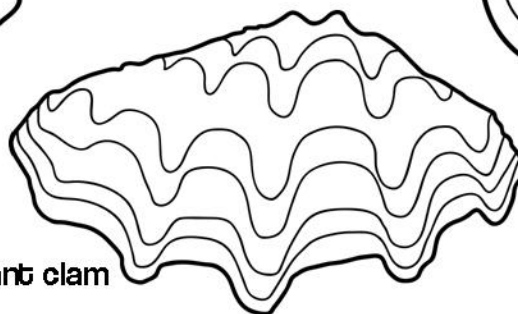
spider shell



conch



scallop



giant clam



### Did you know that...

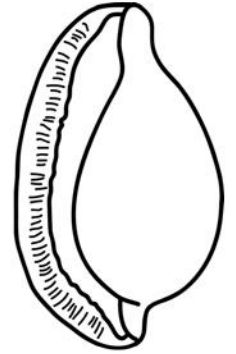
- conches and spider shells are related? They both have a *stromboid notch* at the front end of the shell where the snail's eye peeks out.
- some scallops swim very well? A scallop swims by clapping its two shell halves ("valves") to ingest water. When the valves close, the water is expelled with great force near the hinge. The velum is a curtain-like fold of the mantle used to direct the water flow, much like a movable jet.
- the chambered nautilus has its own buoyancy control device? To control its depth, the nautilus pumps gas (mainly nitrogen) in and out of the interconnected chambers.



True  
Cowries

vs.

False  
Cowries



- True cowries have denticles ("teeth") on both sides of the aperture slit, while false cowries have them only on the outer lip, if they have them at all.
- True cowries have patterned shells, while false cowries are generally white with no patterns.
- True cowries have a sharply back-curved front notch, while false cowries don't.

# SHELL HUNT!

**B A M E G I A M O L C**  
**N A U T I L U S V S S**  
**P O L L A C S S C P L**  
**C S U N N R L A O I A**  
**E O D N T T L M N D F**  
**R F P S C O W R I E H**  
**C O C K L E C O F R C**  
**O X C R A J K W E E N**  
**N P E K M I T E R R O**  
**E V I L O U O I V T C**  
**O Q F R I H P R G I U**  
**S N O T I R T W L M A**  
**A N D L A I D N U S N**

Go beachcombing without leaving the shade. Look for 14 shells in the **WORD SEARCH** to the left. Thirteen are included in the list in front, while one is not. **HINT:** this shell has been used as a trumpet since ancient times. The names are found horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and backwards. Afterwards, you can bring this field guide with you whenever you go out on activities.

**NAUTILUS**  
**COCKLE**  
**COWRIE**  
**TOP**  
**OLIVE**  
**CONE**  
**MITER**

**ROCK**  
**SUNDIAL**  
**SPIDER**  
**CONCH**  
**SCALLOP**  
**GIANT CLAM**