

## Seashell Picture Frame

A BAREFOOT ACTIVITY FOR KIDS AGES 2-8

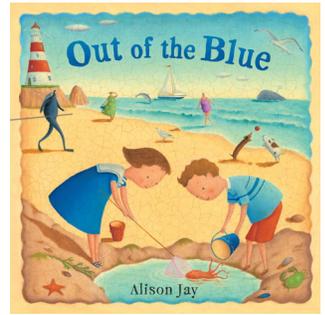
In the first few pages of *Out of the Blue*, children collect seashells and rocks from the beach and create artwork with them. You can do the same! First you will examine and sort your shells using the included guides, and then you will create a picture frame keepsake with your beach treasures. Check out the back side of this sheet for some fun facts about shells!

### WHAT TO FIND

- Shells (collected or purchased)
- Wooden or cardboard picture frame (can be purchased at craft store)
- Craft glue
- Crayons
- Shell identification guide (included)
- Shell sorting sheet (included)

### WHAT TO DO

1. What kind of shells do you have? Identify your shells using the included guide.
2. Sort your shells! Sort your shells using the included shell sorting sheet. Which ones feel smooth? Rough? Count how many of each! Which kind do you have more and less of? Which do you think are bivalves? Univalves? (See definitions on the back of this sheet.)
3. Color your frame (optional).
4. Decorate your frame with shells. Attach the shells to the frame using craft glue. Allow glue to dry completely.
5. Insert your favorite summertime photo or draw your own seashore picture!



**Out of the Blue**  
Illustrated by Alison Jay



## Seashell Identification Guide



### LEARN ABOUT SEASHELLS!

#### Where do seashells come from?

Are your bones inside of your body or outside? Inside, of course! But some animals have their bones on the outside. Mollusks are a type of ocean animal, or marine animal, that have an “external skeleton.” Having a shell on the outside of its body helps camouflage (hide) the mollusk and protect it from predators, strong currents and storms.

When a mollusk dies, its shell is left behind. The shell often washes up on the shore, or stays in the tide pool where the creature lived. Sometimes other seashore animals, such as small hermit crabs, then take the empty shell and use it as their home. When a hermit crab outgrows the shell it has borrowed, it leaves it and finds a larger one to use.

#### Why do shells come in different shapes?

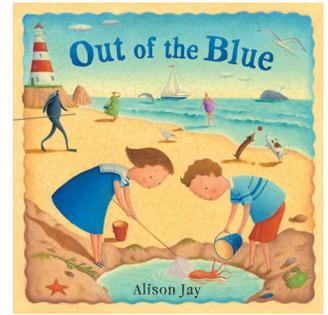
There are many kinds of mollusks, and each type has a unique shell. The most common types of mollusks are called bivalves and univalves. Bivalves have two shell halves that form a whole shell, like clams and oysters. Most mollusks are bivalves.

Univalves just have a one-piece shell, usually a spiral-type shell, that often resembles a snail’s shell. Conches, whelks, and nautilus are univalves.

What other kinds of animals live in shells?



**Fun Fact:** Did you know that you have something in common with a seashell? Seashells are primarily made of calcium, a hard mineral, just like your bones!



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# Shell Sorting!



## Smooth Shells

Number of smooth shells: \_\_\_\_\_

## Rough Shells

Number of rough shells: \_\_\_\_\_

What type of shell do you have more of? What type of shell do you have less of?

