mollusc mania

Molluscs are one of the largest groups in the animal kingdom, they have soft bodies and generally have a hard shell for protection – which is why many are called 'shellfish'. Most molluscs are found in the ocean, but some can be found in freshwater and on land.

Molluscs can be divided into several smaller groups:

Bivalves – have two shells, joined by a hinge such as mussels.

Gastropods – have a large muscular foot such as sea snails and sea slugs.

Cephalopods – literally means 'head foot' and includes squid, octopus, cuttlefish and nautilus.

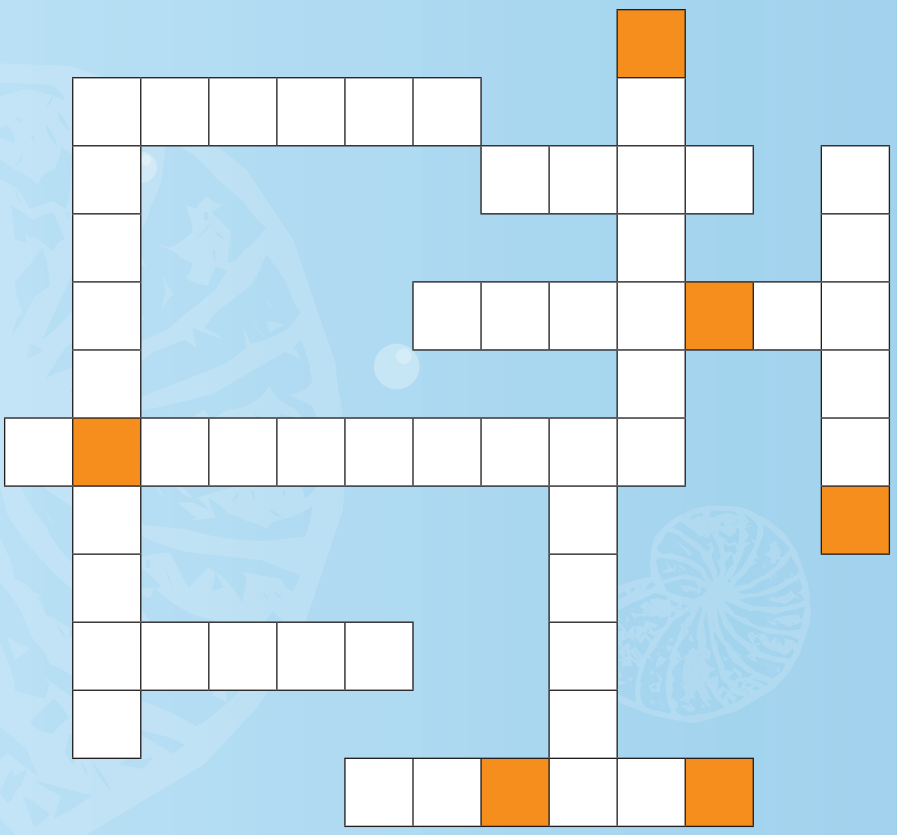
Polyplacophora – or 'chitons' are adapted for life on rocky surfaces with an 'armour-plated' shell.

Scaphopods – known as tooth or tusk shells, as the shell is tusk-shaped.

Monoplacophorans – a deep water limpet - like mollusc.

Aplacophorans – the smallest group, a worm-like marine mollusc mostly living in deep water.

Complete the word-fill below using these common names of marine molluscs.



10 letters
Periwinkle
Cuttlefish

7 letters
Octopus
Abalone

6 letters
Mussel
Chiton
Oyster
Limpet

5 letters
Squid

4 letters
Clam

Rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to find the missing word.

Some types of oysters produce __ __ __ __ __ __, which are created when an irritant (such as a bit of dirt) enters the shell.

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