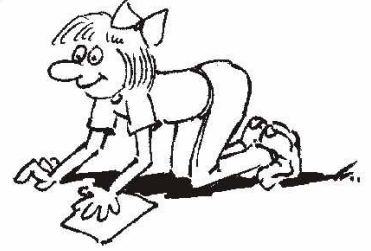


# Discovering Outdoors Sheet

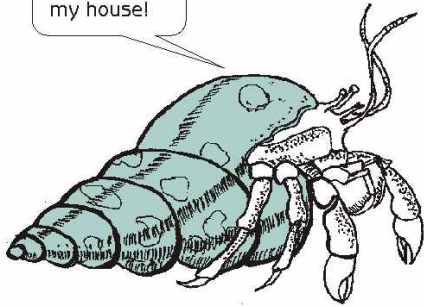


## SHELL SHOCKED!

Most of us who have visited a beach have at some time or other picked up a shell and been filled with wonder and amazement. Well, why not get out there and have a good look? Our Top End beaches have an astonishing variety of shells when you look a little more closely. So go on, get shell shocked!



Hey! That's my house!



## POINTS TO REMEMBER BEFORE YOU START!

- Cone shells may still have the living creature inside. They have poisonous 'harpoons' that can shoot out and actually kill people, so look, but don't touch!!
- Be extra careful of other deadly creatures, like stone fish and blue-ringed octopus, especially in rock pools. Don't touch them!
- You can't keep shells from Parks or Reserves like Casuarina Coastal Reserve.
- In other areas, don't take every shell you find. Leave some for others!
- Hermit crabs may be living in some of these shells. Don't steal their house!
- Have fun!

## ATTACK OF THE KILLER SNAILS!

Snails may not sound very scary, but some of them, like the murex and sand snail are ferocious meat eaters! So imagine you are a poor little screw snail, grazing away, minding your own business. Suddenly, you see a big spiny murex bearing down on you. You try to run, but you can only travel at a, er... snails pace! You pull into your shell for protection, but now the murex is on top of you! You hear your shell sizzling as the murex pours acid on you to soften up your shell. Next is the deafening sound of something drilling into your shell. The hollow drill busts through your shell, and next thing you know, the murex is sucking you out like a mollusc slurpee! (Check the shells you find for these tell tale, 1-2 mm drill holes).

The straw-like drill that many of these killer snails use to attack and devour their victims is actually part of their mouth. Complete this puzzle and place the 6 leftover letters in the spaces provided to reveal its special name.

- |         |        |         |           |
|---------|--------|---------|-----------|
| Abalone | Cone   | Loss    | Screw     |
| Baler   | Cowrie | Mitre   | Some      |
| Clam    | File   | Mussel  | Telescope |
| Cockle  | Helmet | Oysters | Tomb      |
| Conch   | Limpet | Scallop | Turban    |

## WHAT MAKES A SHELL?

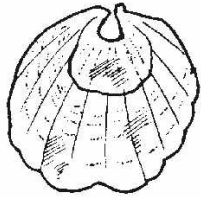
The animals that make these shells are soft bodied creatures called **molluscs**. They make the shell to provide a home that protects them from predators and the elements. The shells you find on the beach have generally been washed up and will be empty. The two main types you will find are **gastropod** shells and **bivalve** shells. Gastropods are the snail-like creatures, while bivalves consist of two shells hinged together (think of a clam).

M	F	A	E	C	O	N	C	H	W
I	I	T	B	L	O	R	A	E	D
T	L	E	C	A	K	W	R	U	L
R	E	L	A	B	L	C	R	A	S
E	A	E	M	O	S	O	O	I	R
M	U	S	S	E	L	T	N	C	E
E	S	C	A	L	L	O	P	E	T
N	S	O	H	E	L	M	E	T	S
O	O	P	T	U	R	B	A	N	Y
C	L	E	L	I	M	P	E	T	O

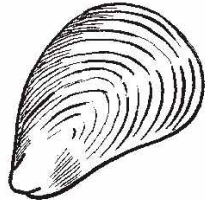
## WHAT TO DO

Photocopy this page to act as your field guide. An example of many of the types of shell you can expect to find are shown. The exact size and colour can vary greatly, but members of each group will have the same basic shell shape. Tick the box of those that you find. Happy hunting!

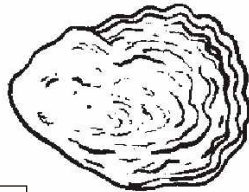
### BIVALVES



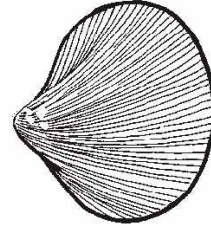
Jingle shell



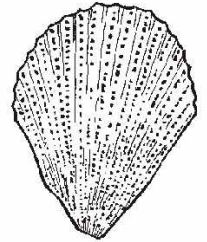
Mussel



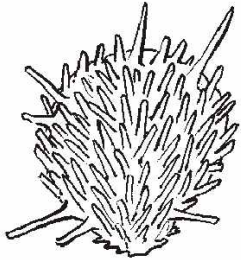
Oyster



Cockle



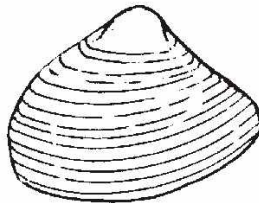
File shell



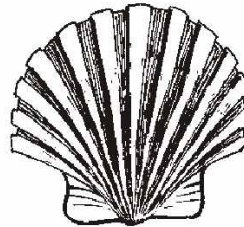
Spiny oyster



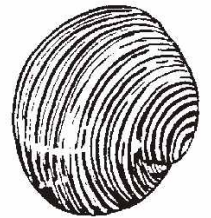
Razor shell



Trough shell



Scallop



Venus clam

### GASTROPODS

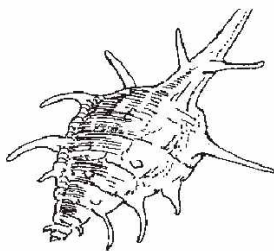


Cone

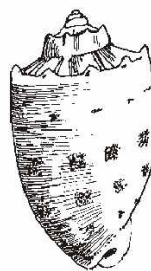
Beware of the deadly sting from live individuals



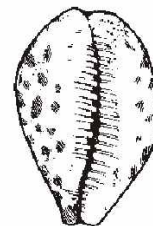
Screw



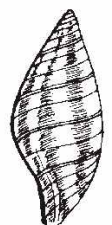
Murex



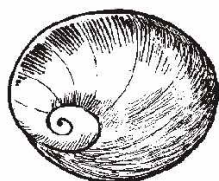
Baler



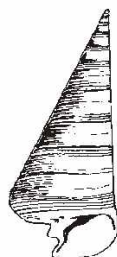
Cowrie



Mitre



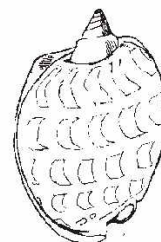
Sand snail



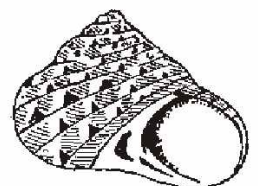
Telescope



Conch



Helmet



Turban