

Name: _____ Date: _____

Oyster Lab

The outside of an oyster

Look at the shells; these are sometimes called "valves".

How many valves are there?

1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ Too many to count ___

Can you figure out the name of an animal, like an oyster, that has this many valves? (Hint: How many wheels does a bicycle have?)

Univalve ___ Bivalve ___ Manyvalve ___

Can you name other animals that have this many shells?

What do you think the shells are for? _____

Hold your oyster so that the flatter shell is on top.

Are the two shells the same size?

Yes ___ No ___

If you don't think they're the same size, which one is bigger?

Top shell ___ Bottom shell ___

Look for the pointed end of your oyster. This pointed end is called the "umbo". The umbo is the oldest part of the oyster. The round end is called the "bill".

At the end of the umbo is a hinge where the two shells are attached.

What kind of joint in your body is like the hinge of an oyster?

Knee ___ Elbow ___ Shoulder ___ Hip ___ Knee and elbow ___

Elbow and shoulder ___ Shoulder and hip ___

The length of an oyster is measured from the umbo to the bill. How long is your oyster? _____

An oyster has to be three inches long to be "legal" (big enough to keep). Is your oyster legal size? _____

It takes an oyster about a year to grow one inch. About how old is your oyster? _____

What do you think the layers on the outside of the shell are? _____

Look closely at the outside of your oyster. Look at the pictures of other animals that like to live on oyster shells. Can you find evidence of any of them that have been living on your oyster?

Barnacle _____

Barnacle scar _____

Boring sponge _____

Limy tube worm _____

Oyster spat _____

Can you think of any other animals that might have been living on or inside your oyster that wouldn't leave a mark?
