

Can Mussels move?

Mussels have a muscular "foot" that helps them burrow and move small distances. During early fall, mussels tend to move deeper into suitable riverbed material. They may burrow downward several feet from the riverbed's surface. This movement is believed to be triggered by dropping water temperature and shorter daily

hours of sunlight. The foot also helps anchor them against strong currents and may prevent a hungry muskrat from tugging them out for its dinner!

A mussel's shell, however, provides its main protection from predators. Their hard, calcium-based shells consist of two halves joined by a hinge.

Match the Word to the Definition (Words can be found in this newsletter).

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|------------------------------|-------|--|
| A. Bivalves | _____ | 1. Organisms at risk of becoming extinct because they are so few in number or threatened by changing environmental conditions. |
| B. Siphon | _____ | 2. The early, immature forms of an animal at birth before they change into adults. |
| C. Plankton | _____ | 3. Small bits of decaying plant and animal material. |
| D. Malacologist | _____ | 4. Plant or animal that threatens environmental or agricultural resources by the damage it causes. |
| E. Tributary | _____ | 5. The place or environment where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows. |
| F. Larvae | _____ | 6. Having a pair of shells, or valves. |
| G. Habitat | _____ | 7. No longer found. |
| H. Invasive species | _____ | 8. Taking game or fish by illegal methods. |
| I. Endangered species | _____ | 9. A person who studies mollusks. |
| J. Extirpated | _____ | 10. A smaller stream or river that flows into another larger stream, river or lake. |
| K. Bioaccumulation | _____ | 11. Microscopic plants and animals suspended in the water. |
| L. Detritus | _____ | 12. A tubular organ used to draw in or eject fluids. |
| M. Poaching | _____ | 13. The process of an organism or part of an organism's absorbing chemical pollutants. |

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