

# Shells

## Teacher's Notes

Early Level 9

### Literacy Connections

Word Count: 122 words (including title)

### Reading Skills:

Decoding, using a range of strategies

Reading for meaning

Use repetitive nature of the text to develop HFW and content word knowledge

### Decoding Skills

High Frequency Words: look, at, this, helps, keep, sometimes

Compound Words: Two words used together:  
inside, sometimes, outside, cannot, without

Blends: "sh" – shell  
"th" – the, this, their, them, these, with

Word Endings: "s" – helps, moves, lives, animals, shells, sometimes

Print Conventions: Sentences start with an upper-case letter and end with a full stop

Text Features: Factual writing  
Illustrations enhance understanding  
Highlighted/coloured text for content words

### Content Connections

- Animals – crustaceans, exoskeletons
- Characteristics and adaptations of animals

### Content Words:

shells, snail, crab, turtle, animals, inside, outside, safe, moves, lives

### Suggested Activities

- Compare this text with that of a story. Discuss the similarities and differences between non-fiction and fiction writing.
- This book contains amazing photographs. Talk about why photographs are often used in non-fiction writing.
- During close reading point out the use of the word ending – s. Practise adding – s to other words. Talk about any "rules" that need to be applied.
- The "th" blend is obvious throughout the text. Highlight these and encourage students to learn these High Frequency Words "off-by-heart"
- Visit the rocky shore to see crabs in their natural environment, or visit somebody's garden where snails can be observed.
- Encourage students to research more about the animals they have seen in this book
- Make a list of crustaceans and other creatures that have exoskeletons starting with those from the book. Continue this with brainstorming together.
- Collect a range of sea shells and display them in the room. Prompt discussion by asking, "What creature lived here?" and "How was this shell made?"