



Bailey-Matthews  
**National  
Shell Museum  
& Aquarium**

Sanibel, Florida



2025-2026  
K-12 Programs



# Welcome

The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium is a nationally accredited natural history museum and aquarium dedicated to education about shells, mollusks, biology, ecology, and conservation. The Museum offers exceptional science-based experiences for all grade levels. All programs align with Florida's Next-Generation Sunshine State Standards for science.

Throughout the year the Museum travels to schools to offer the popular Mollusks on the Move outreach program. Field Trips to the Museum are available and feature the newly remodeled Great Hall of Shells in addition to the aquariums. A Mollusks Online option is available for schools wishing to access Museum education virtually.

Each student receives a shell native to southwest Florida and a shell guide or other Museum-inspired giveaway to keep. Program scholarships and financial assistance for bus transportation are available.



## Key Learning Objectives

**These key learning objectives are met by all programs offered:**

- K** Compare and contrast mollusk species by making observations using four of the five senses.
- 1** Compare and contrast the body parts of humans and mollusks. Explore how physical structures relate to the five senses and allow animals to survive in their environments.
- 2** Describe the major life cycle stages of a Florida native mollusk and recognize that mollusks can't survive without meeting basic needs.
- 3** Classify animals into their major groups by physical characteristics and behavior (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish).
- 4** Explain how energy is transferred from the Sun through a food chain, and that animals obtain energy from the plants and/or animals they eat. Recognize ways plants and animals can impact the environment (including humans).
- 5** Compare and contrast adaptations of animals and plants (life cycle variation, animal behaviors, physical characteristics). Compare and contrast the physical structures and function of organs of plants and animals.





# MOLLUSKS ON THE MOVE

We bring the mollusks to your classroom! Hands-on programs introduce students to mollusks' anatomy, growth, diet, life cycles, and their role in the ecosystem. These experiences include touching live mollusks and last 30-60 minutes per class, depending on grade level. Program descriptions for grade levels are below, and state standard information for each program is listed on page 5. For the 2025-2026 school year, Mollusks on the Move is offered on select fall dates and January-April.

## Program Descriptions by Grade:

**K:** Students learn the basics of what a mollusk is, read a story about different mollusks, and are introduced to different species. Students then explore the shells of mollusks by using their five senses.

**1:** Mollusks are very different from humans! Or are they? In this program, students "build" a human, an octopus, and a snail. They compare the body parts of these three organisms and learn how each part helps the animal survive.

**2:** Meet Shelley the Queen Conch! In this interactive story, students watch Shelley's journey through the Caribbean Sea, learning about the life cycle of Queen Conchs and other gastropods.

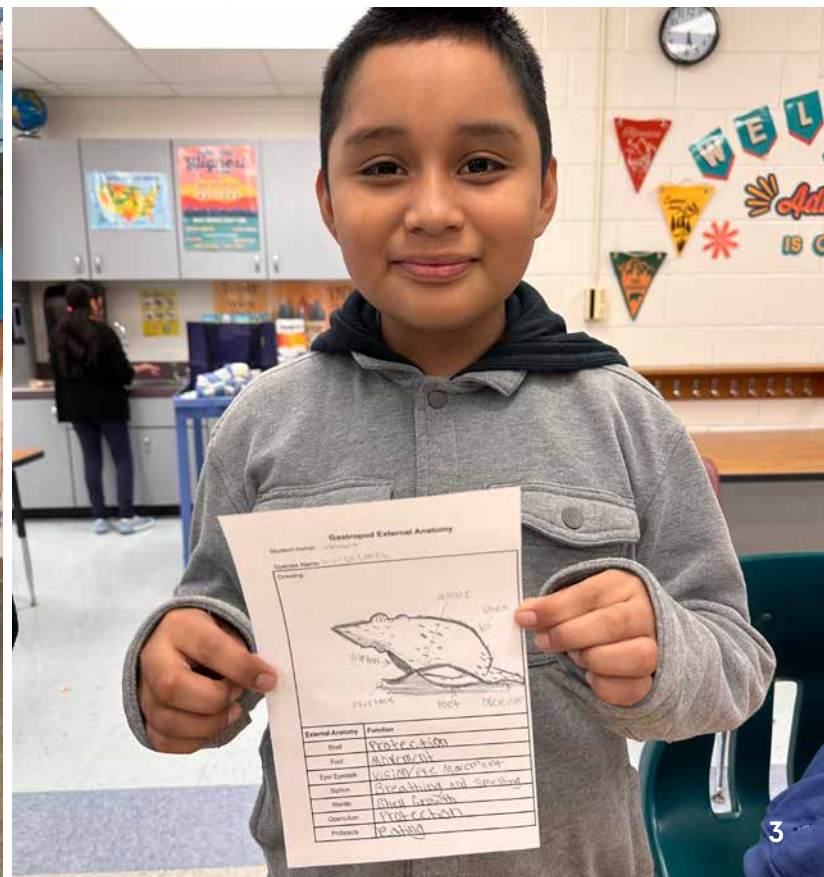
**3:** Students receive an introduction to taxonomy, learn about different classes of mollusks, and identify shells. Students will learn about mollusk characteristics that are similar or different to other groups of animals before attempting to sort and identify a selection of shells.

**4:** Ever wondered what it's like to be a part of a mangrove ecosystem? Each student will become a plant or an animal (including mollusks) that are native to the southwest Florida mangrove habitat. Students will learn what role their plant or animal plays in the food web and what role disturbances (human or non-human) play.

**5:** Students gain a more in-depth understanding of mollusks and their anatomy in this program. They will watch living mollusks and make qualitative observations about them. By sharing their observations with their classmates, they are able to compare and contrast the anatomy of different species.

**6-8:** Program descriptions available upon request.

**9-12:** Students get an introduction to mollusks from all over the world; learn about their biodiversity, life cycles, and adaptations; and about one of their biggest threats: ocean acidification. After the presentation, students complete an ocean acidification lab where they can see firsthand how this climate change related issue is negatively impacting mollusks.







## FIELD TRIPS

Students explore aquariums of live mollusks and marine life, touch local mollusks in touch pools, explore the Great Hall of Shells, and participate in fun and interactive activities. From start to finish, students will be at the Museum for 2–2.5 hours. Program descriptions for grade levels are below, and state standard information for each program is listed on page 5. Field trips will be offered from the end of September through December, and in May.

### Program Descriptions by Grade:

**K:** Students observe and explore mollusks using four out of the five senses. Activities are designed to introduce students to mollusks and answer basic questions about their shell, diet, and ecosystem.

**1:** Ever wondered what different mollusks need to survive? This program will help students differentiate between living and nonliving mollusks, as well as identify what mollusks need to survive through hands-on activities.

**2:** Students will learn about the life cycle of mollusks that live at the Museum, including the Lightning Whelk. Hands-on activities give students an opportunity to see different stages of the life cycle while exploring the Museum.



**3:** Students dive deeper into the taxonomy of mollusks through scientific observation, and the use of a dichotomous key to differentiate between classes and species. This program will also introduce students to food webs and the importance of mollusks within them.

**4:** The mollusks that call the Museum home are an important part of the food web. In this program, students explore all corners of the Museum to interact with food webs, gain knowledge about mollusk adaptations, and review animal classification.

**5:** Students will learn about the adaptations of several different mollusks including Giant Pacific Octopus, Queen Conch, and Giant Clam by observing living mollusks and playing interactive games.

**6+:** Program descriptions for grades 6 and higher are available upon request.

## MOLLUSKS ONLINE

Our marine biologists bring the wonders of shells and mollusks virtually to your classroom. Programs introduce aspects of a mollusks' life, including anatomy, growth, diet, reproduction, and their role in the ecosystem. Programs last approximately one hour and are offered via Zoom and WebEx. Please contact the Museum for specifics of program descriptions for all grade levels.





# Program Standards By Grade

## Mollusks on the Move

**K:** SC.K.L.14.1, SC.K.L.14.3  
**1:** SC.1.L.14.1, SC.1.L.14.3  
**2:** SC.2.L.16.1  
**3:** SC.3.L.15.1  
**4:** SC.4.L.17.2, SC.4.L.17.3,  
SC.4.L.17.4  
**5:** SC.5.L.14.2  
**6-8:** Available upon request  
**9-12:** SC.912.E.7.9, SC.912.L.17.8

## Museum Field Trips

**K:** SC.K.L.14.1, SC.K.L.14.2,  
SC.K.L.14.3  
**1:** SC.1.L.14.1, SC.1.L.14.3  
**2:** SC.2.L.16.1  
**3:** SC.3.L.15.1  
**4:** SC.4.L.17.2, SC.4.L.17.3,  
SC.4.L.17.4  
**5:** SC.5.L.14.2, SC.5.L.17.1  
**6+:** Available upon request

## Mollusks Online

**K:** SC.K.L.14.2, SC.K.L.14.3  
**1:** SC.1.L.14.1, SC.1.L.14.3,  
SC.1.L.17.1  
**2:** SC.2.L.16.1  
**3:** SC.3.L.15.1  
**4:** SC.4.L.17.2, SC.4.L.17.3,  
SC.4.L.17.4  
**5:** SC.5.L.14.2, SC.5.L.17.1  
**6+:** Available upon request





# SCHEDULING & INFORMATION

To request more information or schedule a program, please contact:

Jorden Falker, Associate Director of Education  
[jfalker@shellmuseum.org](mailto:jfalker@shellmuseum.org)  
239-347-5119.

Information can also be found at: [ShellMuseum.org/learn-and-experience/school-programs](https://ShellMuseum.org/learn-and-experience/school-programs)



## Costs & Scholarships

Program fees vary by format. Thanks to generous donors to the Museum, scholarship funding for both programs and bus transportation (for field trips) is available on a first-come, first-served basis with a priority for Title I schools in Lee and Collier Counties.

**In 2024-2025, the Museum covered the costs of 100% of programs for Lee and Collier County schools.**

Please contact Jorden Falker for information about accessing scholarship funds.

We Look Forward to  
Seeing You and Your  
Students in 2025-2026!



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