



# TREASURES OF THE DEEP

## Objective

The student will be able to identify historical and literary references to pearls.

## Vocabulary

bivalve	mollusk
mantle	nacre

## Materials

reference books

## Background

Oysters and mussels are two bivalve mollusks that spend their lives glued to hard surfaces underwater. Sometimes bits of sand or shell enter the animals, becoming trapped in the fleshy mantle. What an irritating situation! Oysters and mussels protect themselves by secreting a milky substance that hardens around the particle, smoothing its edges. Several species of oysters and mussels secrete enough nacre to produce lustrous, beautiful pearls.

## Procedure

Match the appropriate pearl from the column on the right, by placing the letter in front of the correct reference in the left column.

- \_\_\_\_\_ People implant bits of shell in oyster mantles.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A shiny nacre, or aragonite calcium carbonate that lines the shells of some oysters and mussels
- \_\_\_\_\_ These were collected by the shahs of Iran .
- \_\_\_\_\_ Julius Caesar was said to invade Britain for this reason.
- \_\_\_\_\_ These adorned dead Hopewell Indians in the United States
- \_\_\_\_\_ Famous twentieth century singer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Famous author who wrote about China
- \_\_\_\_\_ Written by John Steinbeck

- A. The Pearl
- B. Pearls from the Persian Gulf that back the currency of a country
- C. Pearl Bailey
- D. Cultured pearls
- E. Hope of getting pearls
- F. Mother of pearl
- G. Freshwater pearls from Ohio
- H. Pearl S. Buck

