

# SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

## THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

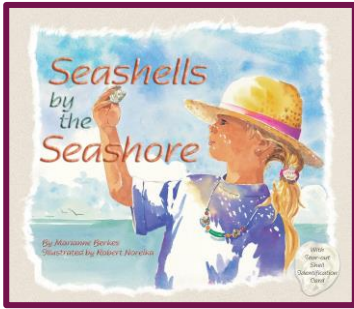


May 20, 2024

### COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **May 23-26:** *King Mackerel & the Blues are Running*, Joslyn Hall @ CCC
- **May 30:** Community Open House & Storm Prep Round Table 2 – 9 PM
- [Click Here to SIGN UP for Summer Camps](#)

### Sound Reading Material For You and Your Child



### Seashells by the Seashore

By Marianne Berkes

Follow along with Sue as she picks up shells and carefully adds them to her bucket as a birthday gift for her Grandma! As Sue collects new shells, each one appears along the side of the page, so kids can keep count.

But be careful—there may be some mollusks still living inside shells! Sue and her friends will release any mollusks back to the ocean when they find them still inside their homes.

Pages: 32  
Grades: K-4

## Shells, Tools, & Jewels

Shells, the jewels of our shores, have long been valued and enjoyed by our inhabitants. The use of shells as decorations and tools dates back thousands of years. Archaeological evidence suggests that Native American tribes, such as the Algonquian-speaking peoples, inhabited our region and utilized shells long before European settlers arrived.

Native Americans used shells for practical purposes, such as making tools, utensils, and ornaments. Different types of shells were used for their unique shapes, sizes, and colors. For instance, Native Americans crafted whelk shells, due to their durability and size, into tools for cutting and scraping. Whelk shells were also shaped into beads and pendants for personal adornments and signified status or affiliation within the tribe. Beyond decoration, these curvy shells were sometimes transformed into musical instruments like horns or trumpets, adding an auditory element to their cultural significance.

Clam shells were commonly used as shovels for digging due to their thick, layered durability. They were also used in decorative inlays for tools and other objects. The inner, more iridescent part of the shell was particularly valued for its beauty. Clam shells were transformed into beads, as well. The shells were ground into small, cylindrical shapes, pierced, and strung together to create necklaces and other jewelry. Shell beads and other ornaments have been found in archaeological sites, indicating their importance in trade and cultural practices.

Oyster shells were also very popular. They were valued for their iridescent quality and were sometimes used in larger, statement pieces. Scallop shells, with their distinctive fan shape, were used in various decorative motifs. They could be incorporated into larger designs or used as standalone ornaments.

When European settlers arrived in the 16th and 17th centuries, they observed and sometimes adopted the use of shells from the indigenous populations. Shells continued to be used for various purposes, including lime production for mortar. The tradition of using shells has persisted into modern times, reflecting a deep-rooted cultural practice that spans thousands of years in our area.

The intricate craftsmanship involved in transforming shells into these items indicates a high level of skill and an appreciation for the natural materials available in the coastal environment. Shells were not only functional or ornamental but also carried significant cultural and symbolic meanings.



shell tool photo from [www.primitivearcher.com](http://www.primitivearcher.com)

## My Memory Shell

I keep a single oyster shell on my kitchen's windowsill. It has been with me for many years. This shell was given to me by a very special friend and holds a significance beyond its simple appearance. This shell is a tangible reminder of a thoughtful act that underpins its story.

Several years ago, I mentioned to my dad that I really wanted some oysters. Later that same week Daddy was talking with his friend, the late Mr. Bill Guthrie. As he frequently did, Mr. Bill asked how my family and I were doing. Since moving from the Island, I didn't get to see Mr. Bill as often as I did when I was a little girl, and he was our neighbor. Since I was typically with Daddy when I was young, I was frequently with Mr. Bill, too. As a matter of fact, Mr. Bill is who adorned me with my CB radio handle: *Staci Lucy Locket Boondocker Davis*. Nights when Dad, *Light Pole*, and I were out shrimping, Mr. Bill, *Hobucken Bill*, would call us on the CB to see how things were going. I always felt very important when I heard MY handle coming through that black speaker!

About a week after Dad and Mr. Bill's conversation happened—one that I knew nothing about—a bag of oysters were delivered to Mom and Dad's house with instructions to give them to me. Can you guess who caught and delivered them? Of course, it was Mr. Bill. Luckily, I was returning home that weekend, and, boy, were those oysters both a surprise and enjoyed!

Mr. Bill didn't merely catch a bushel of oysters for me; he embarked on an intentional journey filled with care, just to brighten my world. I kept a shell from that bushel to remind me of the loving lengths to which friends will go to bring happiness into each other's lives. On a deeper level, that oyster shell through the years has symbolized resilience for me. Oysters thrive in challenging environments, improving their ecosystem, much like how friendships can purify the trials of our lives. The shell itself, once a protective home for the oyster, now encapsulates a memory of generosity and the beauty of small gestures. It's not just a shell to me; it is a testament to friendship and a symbol of thoughtful actions that nurture and sustain each of us throughout our lives.



my friend, the  
late Mr. Bill  
Guthrie

## SCIENCE for YOU



## Crystal Seashells

- 1) Boil water.
- 2) Add 3-4 tablespoons of borax powder per 1 cup of water.
- 3) Place your seashells in glass containers (glass prevents the solution from cooling too quickly).
- 4) Add the solution to the glass containers and cover the shells entirely.
- 5) Put it aside for 24 hours and observe what happens.

*When the borax is mixed with hot water, it remains as solid particles. As the water cools, the particles settle and form the crystals.*