



## Fill in the Blanks with *Russell the Mussel*

### A Vocabulary Activity

Use the words at the beginning of the paragraph to fill in the blanks.

**attaches mussels knobs straining freshwater erosion**

After flooding, water can become murky and muddy looking. These two-shelled creatures, \_\_\_\_\_ can filter and clean by \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. When they filter long enough, mussels can help clean muddy rains and flooding and \_\_\_\_\_. Mussels, often covered in lumps or \_\_\_\_\_, never move far as their foot \_\_\_\_\_ to the rock or bottom where they live.

**clumsy gaping scurry smothering riffles shiners**

Mussels seem \_\_\_\_\_ because they stay in one place so long and look like a rock. Some live in quiet water, others along \_\_\_\_\_ of faster moving water. Some leave their shells open long, \_\_\_\_\_ in the water. Their fish neighbors, known as \_\_\_\_\_ move very quickly and \_\_\_\_\_ about. The mussel filtering prevent \_\_\_\_\_ for many river creatures. They survive thanks to mussels straining the water.

**undulating hellbender predator pollution pesticides shoals**

This large salamander, \_\_\_\_\_, is a mighty \_\_\_\_\_ of freshwater. Some can be found in water that flows \_\_\_\_\_ over rocks and near by \_\_\_\_\_. If the waters are unclean with high \_\_\_\_\_ from chemicals used to kill unwanted bugs and insects,

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called \_\_\_\_\_, the hellbenders may never survive there until it is cleaner.

**peer ornate puzzling distinct boulder goggles**

In the 1800s the shells of mussels were used to make very beautiful or \_\_\_\_\_ buttons on beautiful dresses and blouses. Some shells were very unique with \_\_\_\_\_ colors or patterns. To locate other life near mussels, you may use \_\_\_\_\_ to look closely. You might find these \_\_\_\_\_ creatures known as crayfish. They might \_\_\_\_\_ out from under a huge \_\_\_\_\_, a favorite hiding place.

**distinct slurp biologists bobbing laboratories hatcheries**

Studying mussels, these scientists of life, \_\_\_\_\_, often work inside \_\_\_\_\_. However sometimes they study fish in nurseries called \_\_\_\_\_. Here some darter minnows rise and fall swiftly around the sprayed food pellets, \_\_\_\_\_ in the hatchery water. Along the edges of the enclosure, frogs and toads \_\_\_\_\_ bugs from the air.

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