



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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