

HOW DO YOU AGE A CLAM?

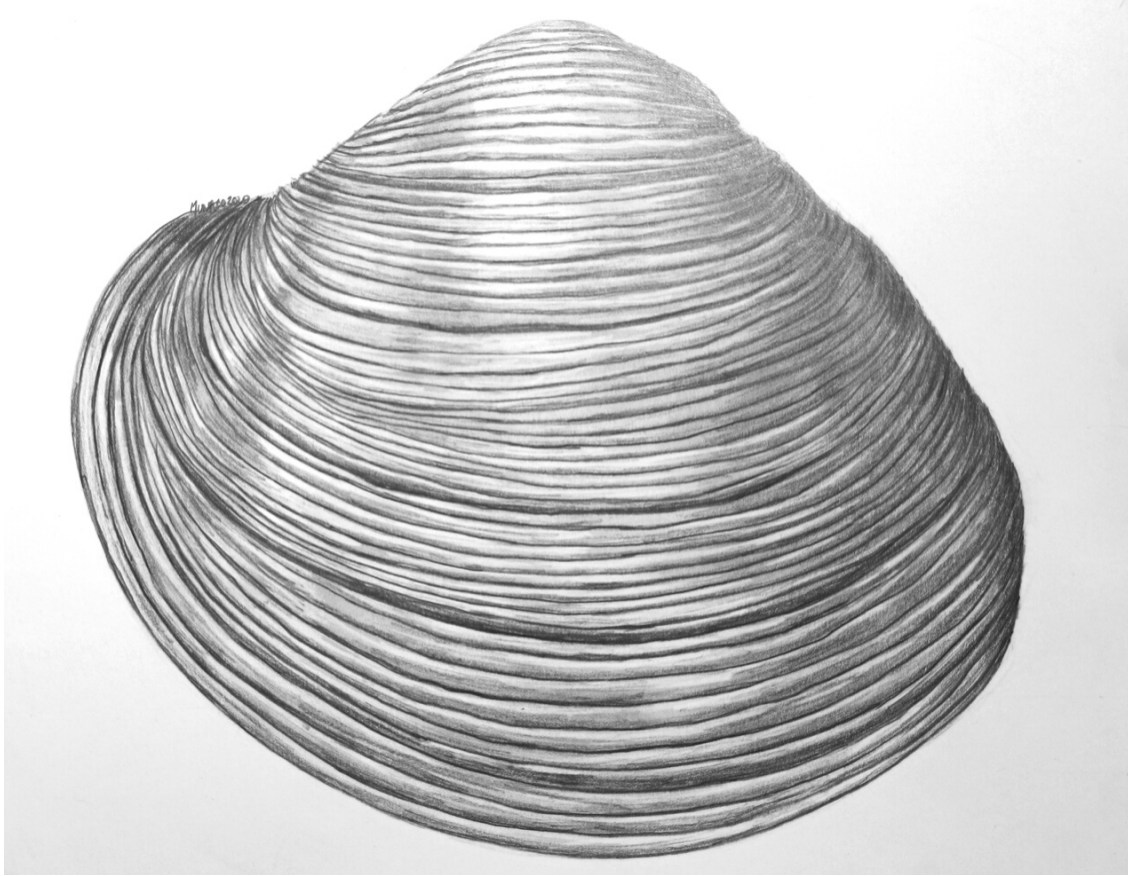


- As they grow, clams add to the edge of their shell to protect their squishy body inside.
- Each time the clam grows, you see a ring. Clams grow in seasons when the water is warm (April-October).
- You can count the **growth rings** like you would age a tree. Count the darkest rings, each ring represents **1 year**.
- The wider the band, the more the clam grew that year! More growth suggests warm water and a lot of food that year!

Now it's your turn!



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1. Draw an arrow near each ring you think is growth ring.
(Hint: there are less than 10)
2. Number the growth rings.
3. How old is this clam?
4. Take a ruler and measure each band (the distance between each ring)
5. Which was the best growing year for the clam?

