

500 million years

190 million years

165 million years

1880's

1939 - 1945

2000's

Today - 2020

Create A Mollusc Timeline



What animal is still around after 500 million years?

It's the mollusc! A soft bodied invertebrate (no backbone) animal, many of which have a hard outer shell for protection. We are more familiar with their remains - the shells we find on the beach.

1. Make a line on the ground or floor, about two metres long using string or wool or rope. You can make it longer if you have the room.
2. Copy (write and draw) or print the timeline game pieces: objects and dates.
3. Cut out each date piece eg 1880's, and place it on the timeline starting with the oldest, 500 million years, and finish with Today - 2020.
4. Cut out each object piece, complete with title and date. Match the date on the timeline with the date on the object.
5. What other things and events can you add to the mollusc timeline? Eg.
 - When did you find your first or your favourite shell?
 - When did you make something using shells?
 - When did you eat a mollusc? (oysters, scallops, abalone, mussels...)
6. What other themes can you make a timeline for?
 - your own personal timeline
 - your family
 - dinosaurs
 - insects
 - your pet...
7. Share your timelines with your friends and compare what was recorded and delight in the differences that come up.



What else can you discover about these Marvellous Molluscs?

Mollusc objects from the Museum of Geraldton

Cut out all timeline game pieces: objects and dates.



Black-Lipped Pearl Oyster – Abrolhos

Pinctada margaritifera

What are some of the colours of the pearls *Pinctada margaritifera* produces?

2000's



Brachiopods

These are the oldest known type of mollusc.

500 million years



Newmarracarra Limestone

Fossilised mollusc shells in limestone, located inland not far from Geraldton, in an area that was once a shallow ocean.

165 million years



Wedding Cake

Made with local shells by William 'Crabbie' Davis for the wedding of one of his 11 children. He came to Geraldton in 1873.

Are you related to him?

How many children are in your family?

What have you made from shells?

1880's

Cut out all timeline game pieces: objects and dates.



A Collection of Fossilised Molluscs

These fossilised shells are from the Mid West region dating from the Jurassic period.

Which one is an oyster shell?

190 million years

190 million years

Date unknown



Pearl Shell Brooch

Made from Broome pearl shell by a Geraldton soldier, Corporal William McGauran, while he was stationed in the Kimberley region during World War II.

Who do you think William made this brooch for?

1939 - 1945

1939 - 1945

2000's



Baler Shell Dishes

From Marron station, near Carnarvon.

Who were the original owners of these shell dishes?

What might they have been used for?

Date unknown

1880's

2000's



Broad-Winged Pearl Shell

These are found around the Abrolhos Islands.

Have you found a shell with the lustrous mother-of-pearl on the inside?

2000's

165 million years

500 million years

Today - 2020