



Seashells 3 - Smash



Atlantic Bay Scallop



Northern Quahog



Northern Horse Mussel

Here are 3 more watercolor paintings of seashells by artist Nan Tull. Some of these shells have fish that are delicious! Seagulls love them, too. But how do they open them?

Smash

Seagulls drop live shellfish onto a hard surface so they will break open. They use their pointy beaks to pry the shell open and remove the fish inside.

Can you find evidence of this? Look for places really close to the water. Look for flat, open, hard surfaces with few cars. Two really good spots are Lobsterville Rd in Aquinnah and the parking lot off Edgartown Bay Rd, in Katama.

Evidence might look like this.



This oyster only has 1 crack.



This shell shattered!



The quahog hinge is still intact.

Your turn

1. Make sure to choose only *uninhabited* shells. That means no one is home and you're not hurting any animals. (Uninhabited shells are drier and lighter in weight.)
2. Ask for help from an adult. Cover your shell with a dish cloth and lightly tap it with a hammer. Did you cause any breaks or cracks? Increase your strength until you actually break a shell. Do different shells break differently? Why?
3. What do you think of this guy's beak? Why is it a good tool?

