

Pearls

Name: _____

Pearl Facts

• Pearls are the only gemstones grown inside of a living organism.



• They are formed within oysters or molluscs when a foreign substance invades the shell of the mollusc and enters the soft mantle tissue. In response to the irritation a crystalline substance called nacre builds up layers around the irritant, slowly forming a pearl.

• The largest and most expensive pearl ever to be found is known as the 'Pearl of Lao Tzu', sometimes called the 'The Pearl of Allah'. (24 cm in diameter and 6.35 kg)

• Pearls come in a variety of various colours, including white, black, grey, red, blue, pink and green.

Do you know any more interesting facts about pearls?

Pearl Diving Research

Before the beginning of the 20th century, free divers had the dangerous task of diving to depths of over 30 m on a single breath to gather oysters.



Research the history of the pearl diving industry in one area of the world and discuss the dangers divers faced, including sharks, sea snakes, jellyfish and the bends.

Art

Mother of pearl is the iridescent layer of material inside the shell of many molluscs.

Look at the pattern and colours of some "mother of pearl" (nacre).

Use the colours and pattern as the stimulus for the design of some jewellery or craft work (bangle, jewel box, picture frame, table, vase).

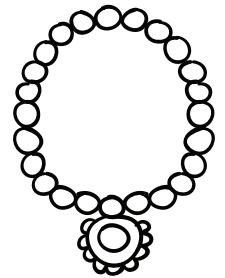
Grammar

Identify whether the words in **bold** are nouns, verbs, adjectives or adverbs.

About 100 years ago, **Japanese researchers discovered** a method of **producing** pearls artificially by **carefully** inserting a **foreign** substance, or **nucleus**, into the tissue of the oyster or mollusc, then **returning** it to the sea, **allowing** a **cultured** pearl to **develop naturally**.

Number Crunchers

Andrew wants to buy his wife a pearl necklace for her birthday, but doesn't want to spend more than £3000.



Peter the pearl dealer has three necklaces for sale.

Necklace 1 - Freshwater pearl necklace
56 pink freshwater pearls.
£58 per pearl.

Necklace 2 - A Tahitian pearl necklace
46 white pearls.
£66 per pearl.

Necklace 3 - A South Sea pearl necklace
69 golden South Sea pearls.
£47 per pearl.

Can Andrew afford any of these necklaces?

Peter then offers Andrew a 10% discount for necklace 1 and 3.

Which is the cheapest necklace Andrew can buy?

Is it under £3000?