Mollusk Shell Lab

- 1. Distinguish between gastropod shells and pelecypod shells. Describe the differences.
- 2. Examine and then sketch a gastropod shell. Identify the aperture, spire, apex, whorl, body whorl, siphonal notch, anterior, posterior, suture, axial or longitudinal sculptures/ribs, spiral sculptures/ribs, sutures, outer lip.



- 3. Identify the gastropod as being sinistral (Relating to or being a gastropod shell that has its aperture to the left when facing the observer with the apex upward. having the whorls coiling counterclockwise down the spire when viewed with the apex toward the observer and having the aperture situated on the left of the axis when held with the spire uppermost and with the aperture opening toward the observer) or Dexral (a gastropod shell that coils clockwise and has its aperture to the right when facing the observer with the apex upward.) Sketch an example of each situation and label them.
- 4. Measure the total length, lenth of spire, and length of body whorl of your assigned gastropod.
- 5. Be able to identify scallop, clam, conch, and whelk shells. (Conch: thick lip and Whelks: thin lip)
- 6. Sketch a pelecypod clam shell and identify the left and right valves, anterior, posterior, ventral, dorsal, umbo, hinge ligament, pallial line, pallial sinus, posterior adductor muscle scar, anterior adductor muscle scar, growth ring, anterior protractor scar, posterior retractor scar.



Clam - Inner Surface of the Left Valve



- 7. Using a peleocypod scallop shell sketch and label ears, beak, radiating ribs, concentric ribs (annuli).
- 8. Using a peleocypod, sketch and identify the Periostracum (outer layer of shell, thin, aka conchiolin layer), Prismatic Layer (aka ostracum layer, center layer, not iridescent or beautiful, provides stability) and the Nacreous Layer (aka hypostracum or mother-of-pearl layer; inside layer of peleocypods, iridescent).

