

LESSON 6 PREDATORS

Mya arenaria, the soft-shell clam has many predators in its natural habitat.

1. Read: Attachment D. Then cut the mini-cards on this sheet and paste them together: the common name, the binomial name, and one characteristic of the predator which helps you to distinguish it from the others.
2. **Extension of the lesson:** There are some binomial names, common names, and characteristics on this sheet that were not in Attachment D. They are also known predators of *Mya arenaria*. Using your computer, try to match up these predator cards.

3. Think beyond the lesson

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER POSSIBLE PREDATORS OF *Mya arenaria*? WHAT IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF THAT PREDATOR?

<i>Carcinus maenas</i>	<i>Neanthes virens</i>	<i>Euspira heros</i>	<i>Glycera dibranchiata</i>
<i>Cerebratulus lacteus</i>	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	<i>Fundulus heteroclitus</i>	<i>Crangon septemspinosa</i>
<i>Euspira triseriata</i>	<i>Homarus americanus</i>	<u><i>Cancer irroratus</i></u>	Milky ribbon worm
Northern Moon snail	Snips off the siphons of larger clams and eats small clams that are burrowed shallowly in the flat	Notorious crustacean ; its population seems to flourish in warmer water ; clam needs to be about 1 ½" to be safe	Hardy fish that eats clams measuring < 20mm
A gastropod that preys on clams in a similar way as the Northern Moon snail	Creamy reddish/pink worm which preys on small clams and has a bite that is painful to humans; its color may account for its name	Worm which can grow to a great length; eats mostly seaweed, but will eat clams ≤3mm.	A large edible marine crustacean with 5 pairs of legs, the first set being very large and clawlike compared to the other pairs

*"Gastropod." The American Heritage Dictionary. 2nd College Edition. 1983. Houghton Mifflin Company. Print. ; Information comes from Beal, Brian ."Predation and Soft-shell Clams". *Coastal Fisheries Research Priorities*. (2000) 12. Print.

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Mummichog	Rock Crab	Everts its proboscis into the clam's siphon and eats it from the inside out	Sandworm
Black Duck	Bloodworm	Spotted Moon Snail	American, Northern or Maine Lobster
A crab with nine marginal teeth on the carapace of its shell ; known as Maine crab, Atlantic crab, peeky toe crab	Green Crab	Gastropod (a snail or related mollusk*)that drills a hole near the umbo area of the clam shell	

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