

Decodable Texts: Digraphs (Beginning)

"This text will teach us all about shells and how they help animals. Let's look for words with sh, th, ch, and wh as we learn!"



What Is a Shell?

A shell is a hard thing.

It can help a crab or a clam.

The shell is thick.

It can shut like a lid.

A shell can stop a fish or bug from harm.

It can chip if it hits a rock.

Some shells are white.

Some shells shine in the sun.

Which shell do you think is best?

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

shut

whiz

shell

chip

shelf



Name: _____

What Is a Shell?

1. What is the shell's job?

- A. to help protect animals
- B. to help animals fly
- C. to help animals sleep
- D. to help animals grow fast

2. What can happen to a shell if it hits a rock?

- A. it will shine
- B. it will chip
- C. it will snap shut
- D. it will sink

3. Fill in the blank:

Some shells are _____ and shine in the sun.

4. How does a shell help animals stay safe?

5. What kind of shell would you want to find on a beach? Why?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Beginning Digraphs – sh, th, ch, wh

Genre: Informational Nonfiction

High-Frequency Words: is, it, can, some, are, from

Before Reading

1. Remind them of the target skill: We're reading about real shells using words that start with sh, th, ch, and wh.
 2. Have you ever found a shell before? What did it look like?
 3. Why might animals need something hard to protect them?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Help readers stretch through beginning digraphs like *sh-ell* and *ch-ip*. Emphasize blending smoothly.
 2. Watch for target skill words that start with sh, th, ch, and wh.
 3. What do shells help animals do?
 4. Try reading "Which shell do you think is best?" like you're asking a fun question!
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After Reading

1. What are two things a shell can do for an animal?
 2. What might happen to a shell if it's not strong?
 3. What details in the story helped you learn something new?
 4. Circle 5 words that start with sh, th, ch, or wh.
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read the last line again with curiosity—like you're really wondering!
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Activity Idea

Find a photo or draw a picture of a shell. Around it, write facts from the story using digraph words like *shell*, *shut*, *chip*, *thick*, or *white*. Then add a sentence about which kind you think is best and why.

Coaching Tip

Use nonfiction stories to build both decoding skills and knowledge—ask follow-up questions to connect reading with curiosity!

