



What do we all have in common? A bivalve dissection!

I. External Observations:

1. List two **qualitative** observations about your bivalve specimen:

Various answers: black, smooth shell, funny strings coming out of one side, smells like fish etc



2. List two **quantitative** observations about your bivalve specimen:

Various answers: measure the height, width, or length. Count the number of rings on the shells, number of byssal threads, 2 shells, etc

II. Internal Observations: fill out the following chart to describe your dissection specimen.

	Describe the following system in your specimen. What does it look like?	Explain what the system does (refer to your book if necessary)
Respiratory System	Gills – a thin membrane	Obtain oxygen from the water
Digestive System	Siphon, Intestines, Digestive gland, gills, Labial palp, Stomach	Obtain nutrients from filtered sea water
Circulatory System	Heart, Pericardial Cavity	Pumps blood through organism

III. Synthesis: Compare and contrast bivalve and humans' body systems.

Teacher note: This key may be expanded, goal is to get students comparing and contrasting the differences and students may come up with other ideas.

	Humans/Bivalve Similarities	Human/Bivalves Differences
Respiratory System	Respiratory system in both is used to obtain oxygen from the outside environment.	Bivalve – uses gills (oxygen from water) Human – uses lungs (oxygen from air)
Digestive System	Digestive system in both is a complete digestive tract. Both animals need to eat to survive	Bivalve – Uses siphon and gills to take in food. Human – Takes in food with mouth.
Circulatory System	Circulatory system in both contain a chambered heart.	Bivalve – Has an open circulatory system. Human – Has a closed circulatory system.