



# QUAHOG

## What is a quahog?

A quahog is a type of clam that is found buried in the sand along the seacoast of New Hampshire.



## What do they eat?

Quahogs eat small plants called phytoplankton that float in the water.

They are able to eat by opening their shell and pumping water through their body, which allows them to catch the phytoplankton.



## Why are they important to New Hampshire history?

The Abenaki used the inside of the quahog shells to make wampum beads for jewelry, which were worn during special ceremonies. Wampum beads are purple and white.

Because wampum was so special in Abenaki culture, the Abenaki who collected the quahog shells along the seacoast of New Hampshire often traded the shells with other Native American groups that lived farther away from the coastline.



## Where else do they live?

Quahogs also live in states along the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, from the coast of Maine all the way to Texas!

## Fun Fact

The quahog is also known as the chowder clam, because these clams are mostly used today to make delicious clam chowder!