

3. Molluscs

-Molluscs are **aquatic** (squids, mussels, clams) or **terrestrial** (snails, slugs) animals with **bilateral simmetry**.

-Most of them have a **protecting shell**.

-If they are terrestrial they breathe through **lungs**; if they are aquatic they breathe through **gills**.

-They reproduce sexually. Some species are **hermaphrodites** and others are **unisexual**. **All of them lay eggs**.

4.1 THEIR BODY

Their organs are highly developed. The following parts can be found in the body of molluscs:

1. The **head**, which contains the sense organs.
2. The **visceral mass**, where the internal organs are found.
3. The **muscular foot**, which molluscs use **to move around, to excavate and catch their prey.**

4.2 THE MAIN GROUPS OF MOLLUSCS

Gastropods

Snails and slugs are part of this group.

- They can be **terrestrial** (lungs) or **aquatic** (gills).
- They have a protecting **spiral shell**.
- Most of them are **herbivorous**.
- They have eyes and a mouth with a rasping organ, the **radula**, which they use to feed.
- They use a **single muscular foot** to move around.

SHELL APEX

RESPIRATORY PORE

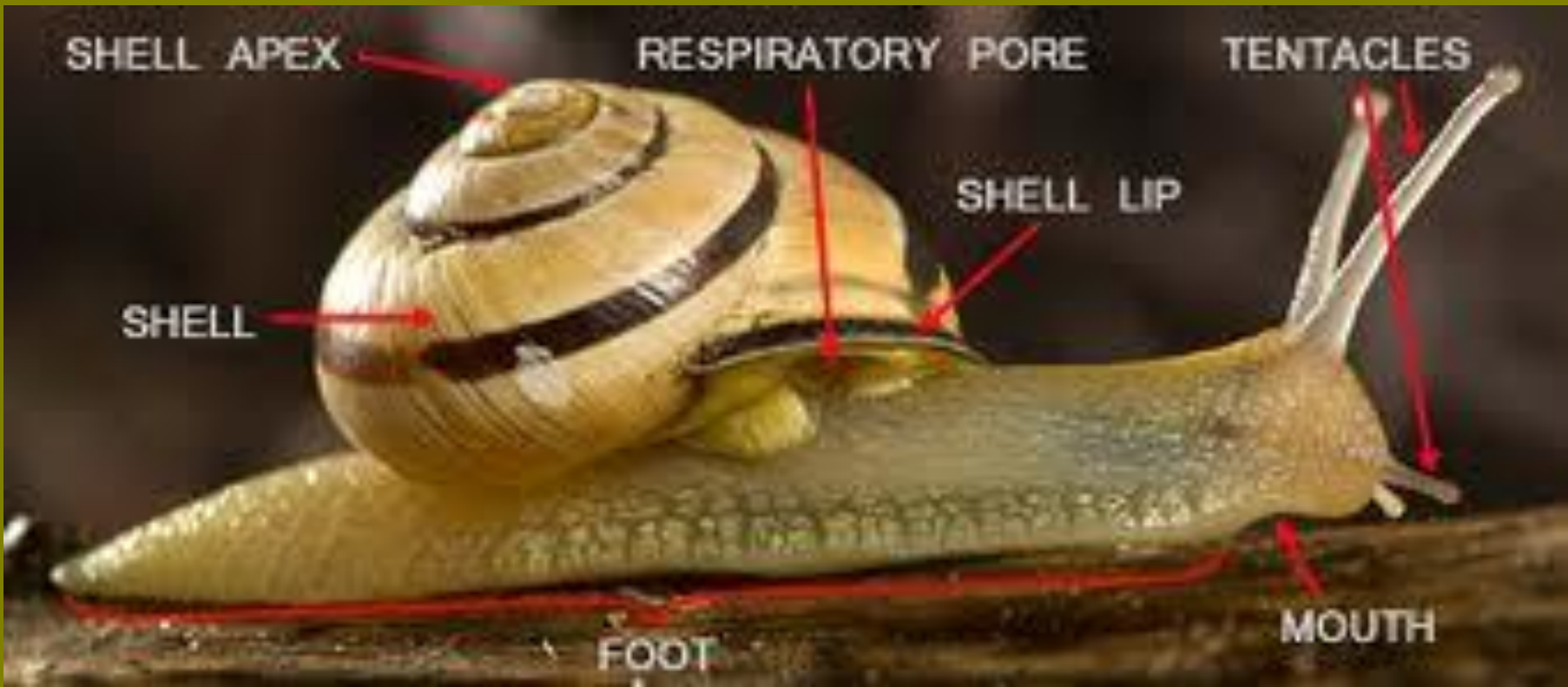
TENTACLES

SHELL

SHELL LIP

FOOT

MOUTH



Bivalves

Mussels, oysters and clams all belong to this group.

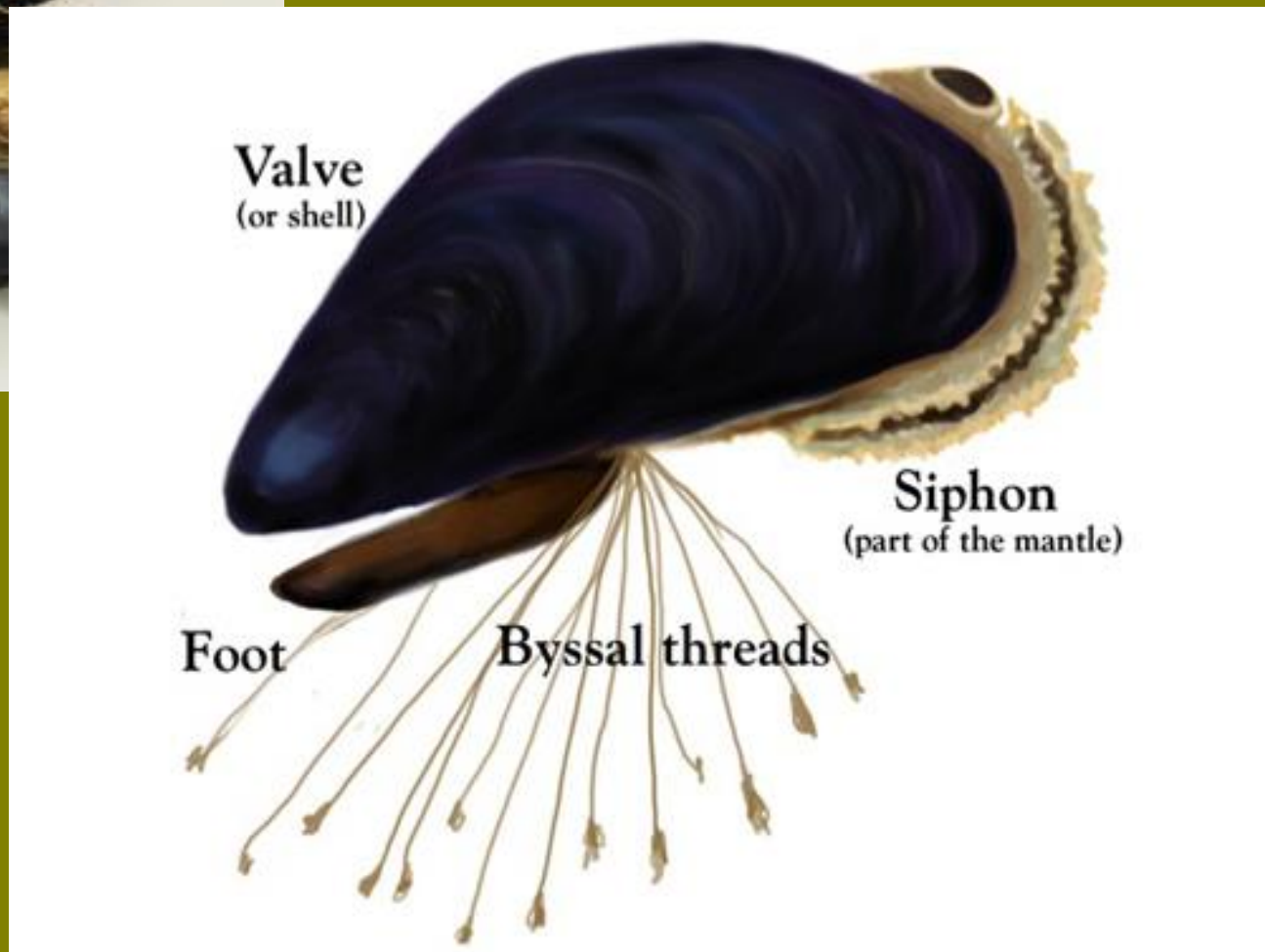
-They are **aquatic** (gills).

-They have **two joined shells**.

-Their **head is not differentiated** from the rest of the body.

-Their **single muscular foot** has the shape of an **axe** and they use it **to move and to excavate**.

-Most of them are **filter-feeding** bivalves.



Cephalopods

Squid, octopus and cuttlefish belong to this group.

-They are **aquatic** (gills).

-Most of them have no protecting shell or the shell is very small (**PLUMA**).

-Their **head is differentiated** from the rest of the body. Their mouth has **radula** and a mandible called **parrot beak**.

-The foot surrounds the head and has the shape of **tentacles** for capturing prey.

-They are all **carnivorous**.

