



Life Cycle Answer Key

Oyster Life Cycle

What is a baby oyster called when it has just attached to a substrate (rock or shells)?

Spat

Clam Life Cycle

Does the clam attach to anything?

No, it has a foot to dig.

What does this tell you about where it lives (habitat and substrate)?

The substrate is different where clams live compared to oysters. Oysters need hard substrate to attach to, but clams need soft substrate like mud or sand to bury themselves underground for protection.

Barnacle Life Cycle

Is a barnacle a mollusk?

No, since it has appendages it is an arthropod related to a lobsters, crabs, and insects.

Do barnacles attach? What might be a benefit of attaching?

Yes, it helps them survive the strong wave action of the intertidal zone.

Summary

What is something that these life cycles had in common?

- *All species have a planktonic stage where they float in the water column*
- *All species have a settlement stage*
- *All species metamorphose*

What is something that was different?

- *Clams develop a foot*
- *Barnacles are not mollusks, they are arthropods.*
- *Clams do not attach, but barnacles and oysters do.*