Oyster Dissection

Maybe it’s a bit late to think about this, but just how does the oyster survive in the intertidal zone? If it’s a marine animal, how does it survive out of the water when the tide goes out? And the oyster doesn’t move around. It’s attached to the rocks or other shells beneath it. So how does the oyster get its food? How does it reproduce?

Procedure

Locate the following parts of the oyster anatomy on the diagram and on your specimen. Write a brief description of each part to help you identify the anatomical features of an oyster. When you are done, try to determine the function of each body part.

- Adductor muscle
- Mantle
- Palps
- Mouth
- Gills
- Cilia
- Heart
- Stomach
- Rectum
- Anus