

# NAUTILUS

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MENU - A

## SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION

<b>COMMON NAME:</b>	Nautilus, chambered nautilus, pearly nautilus
<b>KINGDOM:</b>	Animalia
<b>PHYLUM:</b>	Mollusca
<b>CLASS:</b>	Cephalopoda
<b>SUBCLASS:</b>	Nautiloidea
<b>ORDER(S):</b>	Nautilida
<b>FAMILY:</b>	Nautilidae
<b>GENUS SPECIES:</b>	5 species in 2 genera

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## FAST FACTS

<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	<p>Nautilus possesses an external coiled shell. It is porcelainlike on the outside and pearly inside. The head has 80 to 90 suckerless tentacles, which are retractable into sheaths. Nautilus also have a fleshy hood to seal the opening of the shell.</p> <p>Shells are divided into internal chambers by septa (partitions) and the outermost chamber is occupied by the body of the animal. Each septum has a small hole in the middle. Through these holes, a thin tube housing a slender cord of tissue, called the siphuncle, extends. The siphuncle secretes gas into the empty chambers, making the shell buoyant.</p>
<b>SIZE:</b>	<p>Average shell diameter between 17 to 21 cm (6.7–8.3 in.); Maximum shell diameter on record 26.8 cm (10.5 in.).</p>
<b>LOCOMOTION:</b>	<p>Nautilus swim backwards except for when feeding. They use water-powered jet propulsion—in which water is expelled from the mantle cavity. A nautilus can control the amounts of fluid and gas in its shell chambers to actively regulate their buoyancy.</p>

<b>DIET:</b>	Mostly decapod crustaceans such as hermit crabs
<b>FEEDING:</b>	Nautiluses have 80 to 90 tentacles around their heads which are either chemosensory and tactile, or prehensile and used to bring food to the mouth. Nautiluses are nocturnal scavengers and predators.
<b>REPRODUCTION:</b>	Nautiluses are either male or female. Fertilization is internal. Males have a modified reproductive organ composed of four fused tentacles. Eggs are attached to hard surfaces. They are laid one at a time and packaged in several layers of a leathery parchment, like a protective capsule.
<b>RESPIRATION:</b>	Nautiluses have two gills that are used for gas exchange. Water circulation through the mantle provides oxygen for the gills.
<b>LIFE SPAN:</b>	To 15 years or more
<b>RANGE:</b>	eastern Indian Ocean and western Pacific Ocean
<b>HABITAT:</b>	Nautiluses are found in tropical waters from the faces of coral reefs into deeper water. During daytime they rest at a depth of about 300 to 400 m (984–1312 ft.). At night, they move up to shallow waters to feed.

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## FUN FACTS

1. Nautilus eyes contain photoreceptors, but lack lenses, which does not allow the same type of sight as other cephalopods have. Their eyes function like a pinhole camera.
2. SeaWorld San Diego is one of the few institutions to ever hatch a nautilus egg.
3. Nautiluses have many predators, including sharks, fishes, and even octopuses.

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## ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

Nautilus shells are sold commercially around the world. Some are collected naturally from beaches, while other are commercially collected using baited pots.

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