This guide identifies some of the most common shells you might see on beaches around the Firth of Forth. Use the boxes provided to tally how many you’ve seen!

**RAZOR SHELL**
- Razors live deep beneath the sand, coming to the surface to feed when the tide comes in. Up to 20cm long, single shells or pairs can wash up.

**MUSSEL**
- Blue or purple shell up to 10cm long. Very common on intertidal rocks. A ‘bivalve’ this creature has a hinged double shell when living.

**COMMON COCKLE**
- Fan-shaped bivalve shell with ‘ribs’ radiating out from the hinge. Up to 5cm across. Oystercatchers enjoy eating this edible clam.

**SCALLOP**
- Scallops are bivalves that come in a variety of shades and sizes. They are rounded in shape and have obvious ridges.

**TURRET SHELL**
- Shaped like screws, these gastropods have high spired shells with many whorls. Often 2-3cm in length.

**COMMON LIMPET**
- A conical shell with ridges, although often worn smooth by the sea. Found on rocky shores. Size ranges from 1cm to 6cm in height.

**PERIWINKLE**
- These small conical shells come in several varieties. They vary in colour from black and grey to brown, green or yellow.

**COMMON WHELK**
- A large gastropod with a spiralling shell up to 10cm long. Typically has 7 or 8 whorls and a wide aperture (hole) at its broad end.

If you cannot get to a beach, try to spot these shells using our photos of shell-covered beaches. How many of the above shells can you find in the photographs?