



How to differentiate between a brachiopod and a bivalve (clam) based on the shape of their shells (*valves*).

The brachiopod shell is divided in half by a line as shown in Figure 8C. Figure 8D is a side view of a brachiopod, showing that it cannot be divided into equal parts by separating the valves. Thus, we say that brachiopods are ***inequivalved*** (have valves of different size) and bivalves are ***equivalved*** (have valves of the same size).

Some brachiopods live on the sea bottom, attached to a rock or shell fragment by a fleshy stalk (Figure 9A); others rest on, or burrow into, the sea bottom. Except for the stalk, the soft parts of the animal are completely enclosed between its two valves, which are held together by strong muscles.