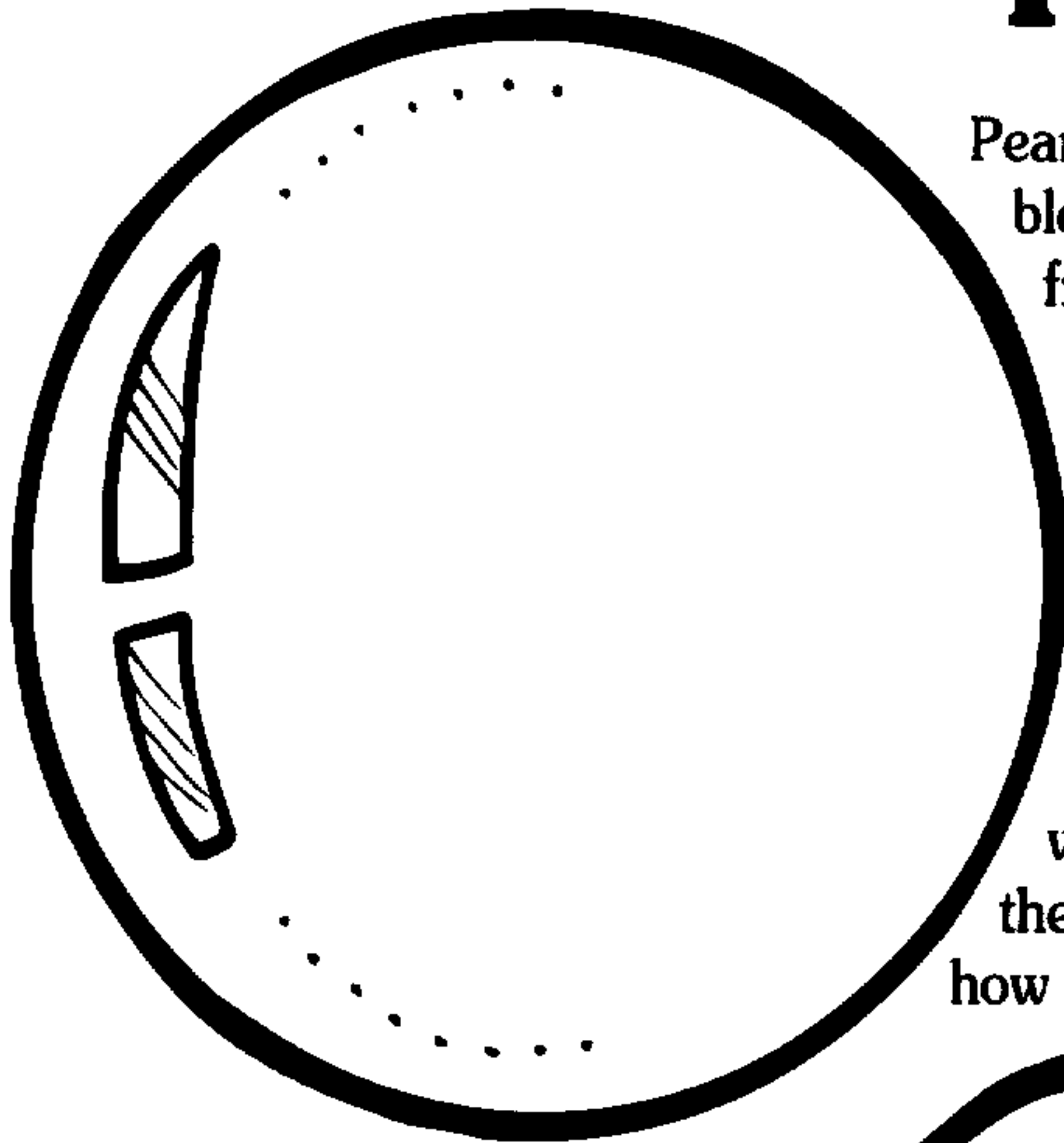


# Pearl and Oyster

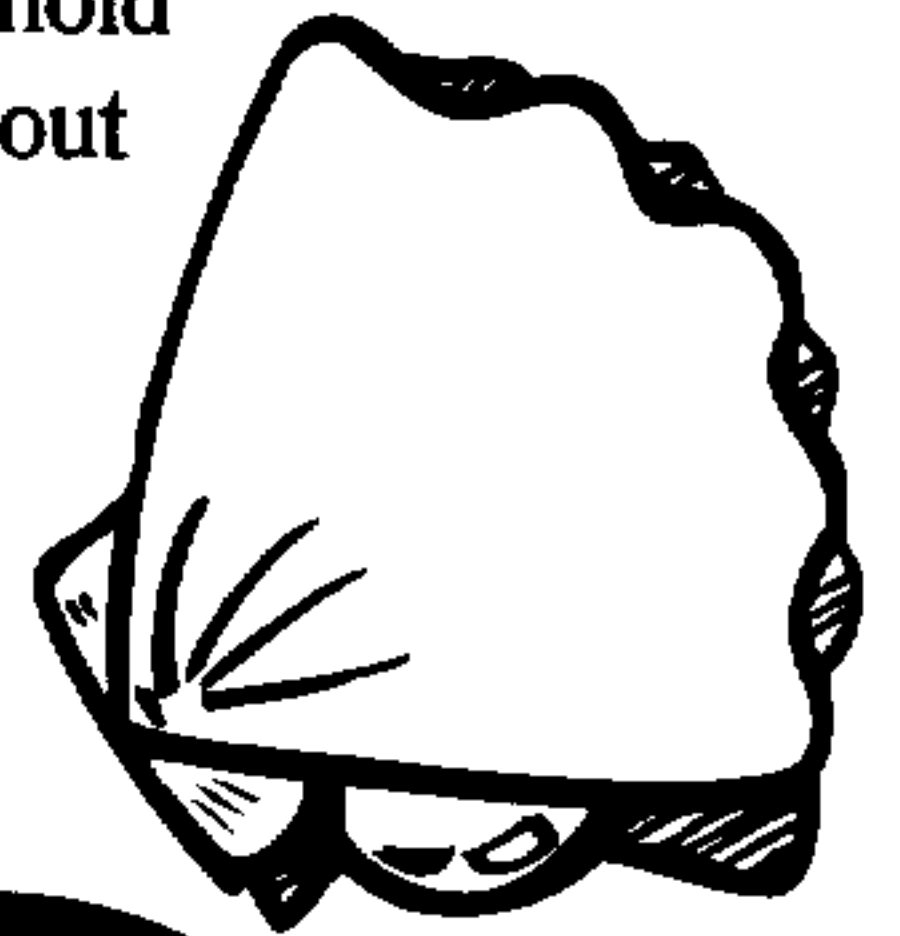
Pearls are known in Japan as "the gift of kings!" If possible, bring to class a string of pearls and a few oysters from a local fish market. (Make sure you open an oyster so they can see the insides.) Explain that in nature a small grain of sand often gets inside the oyster's shell. This grain of sand becomes an irritant and over time it becomes an iridescent pearl.

Ask students to find out about the women pearl divers of Japan. Have them find out why they wear white and for how long they can hold their breath. Ask them also to find out how cultured pearls are made.



**Pearl**

**Cut two**



Cut these two oyster patterns from colored paper and staple them together at the base. Cut the pearl from white paper and insert it into the oyster.

Make a matching activity by having students write questions about sea life on the oysters and answers on the pearls. They may then match the pearls to the appropriate oysters.