

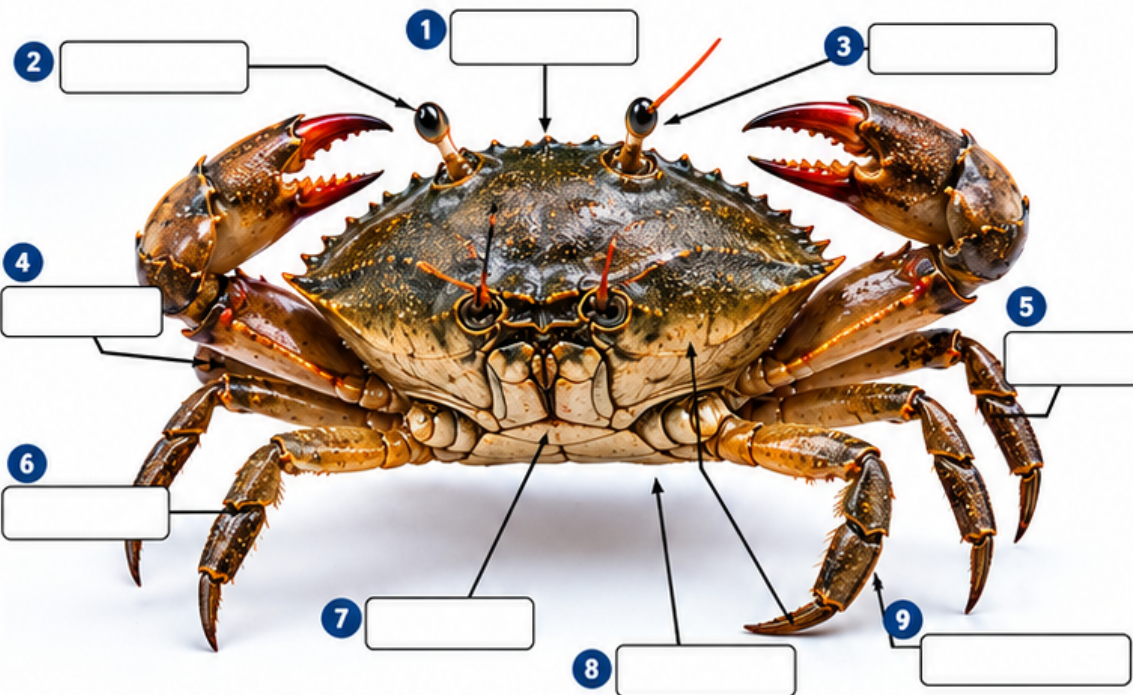


Crab Anatomy



Look at the diagram of the crab below. Write the correct part of the body from the word bank in each box.

carapace | eye | antenna | claws (chelipeds) | walking legs
mouth | abdomen | swimmerets | gills



Did you know?

- A crab's hard top shell is called the carapace. It protects the soft body inside.
- Crabs breathe through gills, just like fish, even though they live on land and in water.
- They have 10 legs in total – 2 claws and 8 walking legs.
- The last pair of legs help some crabs swim through the water.
- Some crabs can walk sideways very fast to hide from predators!



Life in Rock Pools

Crabs are fascinating creatures that can live both in the sea and on land. They are crustaceans, which means they have a hard exoskeleton on the outside of their body. Crabs use their claws for catching prey, defending themselves and even for sensing vibrations in the water.

They feed on a variety of foods such as algae, small fish, molluscs, and decaying plant matter. Crabs use their strong claws to crack open shells of snails and mussels. They have excellent eyesight and can detect movement from far away.

Crabs shed their old shell (a process called moulting) as they grow. When they moult, they are soft and vulnerable until their new shell hardens.



Observe and think!

If a crab loses a leg, can it grow back?
Explain how this helps the crab survive.



- 1 How does the crab's carapace protect it?

- 2 Why do crabs have two different types of legs?

- 3 What does a crab eat? Give two examples.

- 4 How does a crab breathe underwater?

- 5 What happens during moulting? Why is it dangerous?

- 6 Where do you think a crab would be most likely to hide in a rock pool? Why?

