

Introduction to Blue Crabs



What is a crab?



• A crab is an animal that has 10 legs, a hard shell body and walk side ways.

Did you know?

A female blue crab is called a Sook. A male blue crab is called a Jimmy.

Did you know?

Crabs have blue blood.

Anatomy

Crabs are invertebrates which are animals with out a back bone. Their shell is a exoskeleton which provides protection from predators and also support for their muscles.



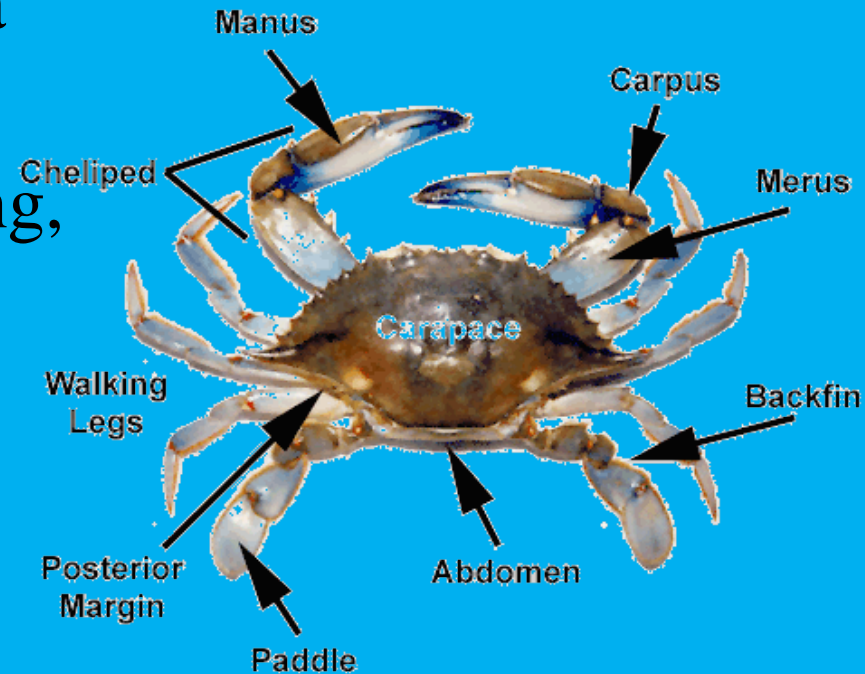
Protection



support

The Blue Crab

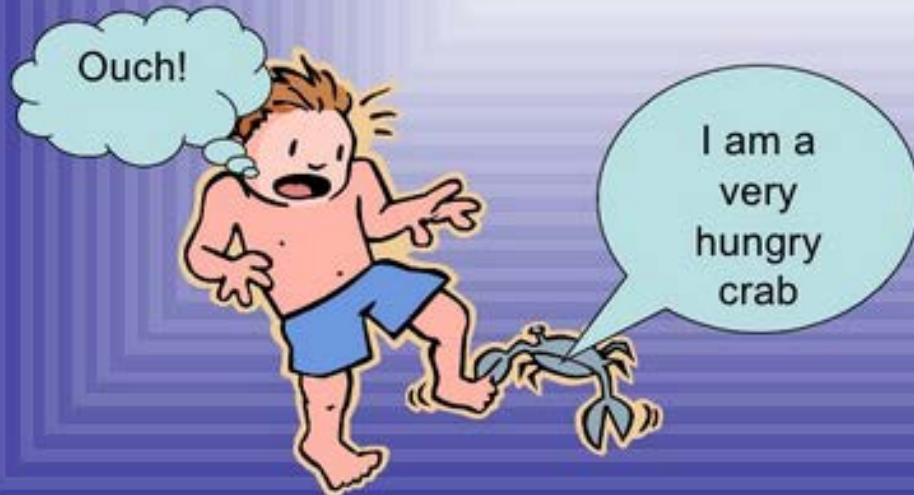
- Member of the class Crustacea
 - Exoskeleton of Chitin
- Scavenger with parts for cutting, shredding, mashing
- Stalked eyes
- 10 appendages, last pair called swimmerets
- Carapace-shell
- Cheliped-clawed feet



Diet



Some crabs are scavengers and eat dead animals. Some eat plankton and some young crabs eat worms. Larger crabs eat shrimp and other shellfish.



Blue Crabs Eating

[Video of Blue Crab eating Clam](#)



Lifecycle



- Mostly bottom-dwellers
- Following mating the female migrates to high salinity waters
- Eggs are released into the water column



Adaptations

The Blue Crab has many different adaptations such as the Claw. The Blue Crab's claw is used for self defense and tearing food and putting it in its mouth. The Blue Crab also has swimming legs at the back of its body. These act like paddles by propeling the crab forward when in the water. The hard shell is used for protection against predators. The blue crab also has jointed appendages so it can quickly walk across the ocean floor.



Crab Food Web

