

# Crustacean Lab



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



This lab is to help familiarize you further with various crustaceans. You will need to make sketches of each organism and answer questions at each station.

- **DO NOT THROW, SHAKE, OR MISHANDLE ANY SPECIMENS. Many of these specimens are very fragile.**
- **Do not open any jars. Leave them sealed to preserve it.**

## STATION 1

Examine the two models of the blue crab. Determine which is male and which is female and sketch them both below.

Male Blue Crab (ventral side)

Female Blue Crab (ventral side)

1. What does their scientific name, *Callinectes sapidus*, mean? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How often do females mate in their lifetime? \_\_\_\_\_

## Station 2

Examine the specimen of a horseshoe crab. Sketch it below.

3. Horseshoe crabs are NOT crustaceans. What are they more closely related to? \_\_\_\_\_
4. These animals are sexually dimorphic – which means that the males look different from the females. This is usually evident in overall size of the animal – so which is larger? Males or females? \_\_\_\_\_
5. These animals feed mostly on mollusks, worms, and fish. But they have no jaws! So how do they eat?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Station 3**

Examine the fact sheet of the two different shrimp. Sketch them both below.

Gulf Shrimp	Pink Shrimp
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- 6. Why are gulf shrimp only harvested from the wild? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. The gulf shrimp obviously lives in the Gulf. Where does the pink shrimp live? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. When cooking gulf shrimp, how can you tell if it is fresh? \_\_\_\_\_

**Station 4**

Examine the specimen of the crawfish. Sketch it below.

- 9. After reading over the differences between the Red Swamp and White River crawfish, what do you think is the identity of the specimen you drew? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Which species makes up most of the catch in Louisiana? \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. How many eggs does the Red Swamp crawfish lay? \_\_\_\_\_ The White River Crawfish? \_\_\_\_\_

**Station 5**

Examine the specimen of the Fiddler Crab. Sketch below.

- 12. When is a Fiddler Crab sexually mature? \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. How does a male Fiddler Crab get the attention of a female Fiddler crab? \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. How can you tell if a Fiddler Crab lives in a particular hole in the ground? \_\_\_\_\_

**Station 6**

Examine the information and pictures of the two lobsters. Sketch below.

American Lobster	Spiny Lobster
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- 15. Which lobster embarks on an annual migration? \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. What does the American Lobster have that the Spiny Lobster does not? \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. What does the Spiny Lobster have that the American Lobster does not? \_\_\_\_\_

**Station 7**

Examine the barnacles. Determine which species is which. Sketch them below.

Balanus Barnacles (Acorn Barnacles)	Gooseneck Barnacle
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- 18. How do barnacles feed? \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. How do barnacles attach themselves to a substrate like rocks and wood pilings?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 20. Where do Gooseneck barnacles get their name? \_\_\_\_\_