

Animal Facts:

Crabs and Lobsters

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Crabs and lobsters are part of an enormous group of creatures called crustaceans.



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Most crabs and lobsters have their own shell, but hermit crabs live inside the discarded shells of other creatures.



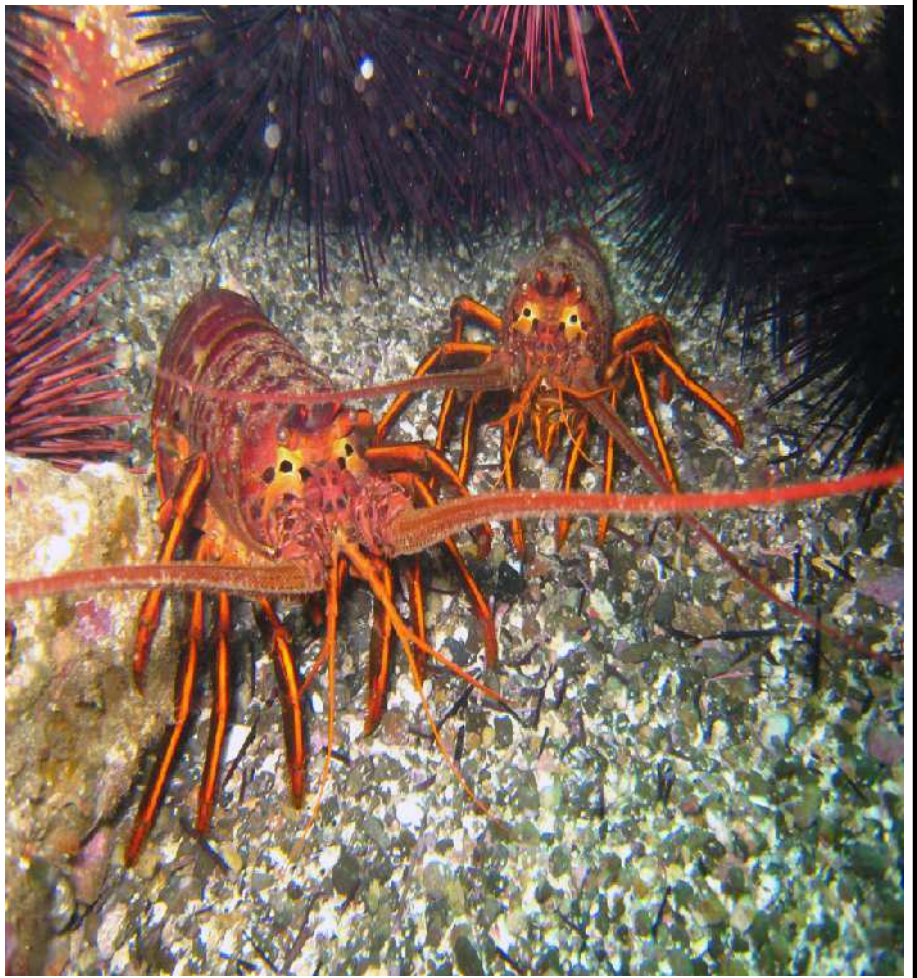
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Crabs and lobsters are decapods, which means they have ten legs - although the first pair are often strong pincers which are used to hold and tear food.



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For spotting prey, crabs and lobsters have two pairs of antennae on their heads and a pair of eyes on stalks.



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One of the lobsters claws usually has blunt knobs for crushing victims. The other has sharp teeth for cutting.



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Male fiddler crabs have one giant pincer which they waggle to attract a mate.



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Robber crabs have claws on their legs which they use to climb up trees to escape from predators.



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The giant Japanese spider crab can grow to measure 3 m across between the tips of its outstretched pincers.



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When American spiny lobsters migrate, they cling to each others tails in a long line, marching for hundreds of kilometres along the seabed.



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Sponge crabs
hide under
sponges which
they cut to fit.
The sponge
then grows at
the same rate
as the crab.

