

What is a crab?

A **c**rab is a sea creature with a flat round body covered by a shell, and five pairs of legs with large claws on the front pair. Crabs usually move sideways.

Crabs are crustaceans (meaning its body is covered with a hard shell).(Crab definition and meaning | Collins English Dictionary (collinsdictionary.com))

Did you know.....

1. Groups of crabs are called **casts**.
2. The smallest species of crab is called a **pea crab** and is only a couple of millimetres big. It is only found around the coasts of the UK, Ireland and Europe. The largest species of crab the **Japanese Spider Crab**, can grow to 4 metres long.
3. To **communicate**, crabs drum and shake their pincers.
4. Crabs don't have teeth in their mouths but some, such as the brown crab, have teeth in their stomachs.
5. Some crabs can **regenerate** their limbs.
6. A Crab's **blood is blue** due to the copper it contains.
7. There are over **4500** species of crabs.

Crabs found in the sea around Swanage Pier

Porcelain crab



Nhobgood, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Edible crab



Titus Tschardtke, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Shore crab



(By © Hans Hillewaert, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=470123>)

Velvet swimming crab



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/el-milligano/15063059413/> Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic

Spiney spider crab



ceridwen / *Dead spider crab on Newport sands* / CC BY-SA 2.0

Great spider crab



[File:Spider Crabs Fighting.JPG|Spider_Crabs_Fighting]][Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0](#)

Research and investigation

Do your own research about crabs and choose the right answers for the questions below.

Crabs are:

- Amphibian
- Invertebrate
- Vertebrate

What is the feeding behaviour of crabs?

- Carnivorous
- Omnivorous
- Herbivorous

How many legs do crabs have?

- Two
- Ten
- Four

What is the lifespan of a crab?

- 20-30 years
- 3-4 years
- 4-12 years

How do crabs reproduce?

- Via spores
- Via eggs
- Via seeds

What is the biggest species of crab?

- Hermit crabs
- Japanese Spider crab
- King crabs

Crabs ? as they grow because their shells become too small.

- Molt
- swim
- pinch