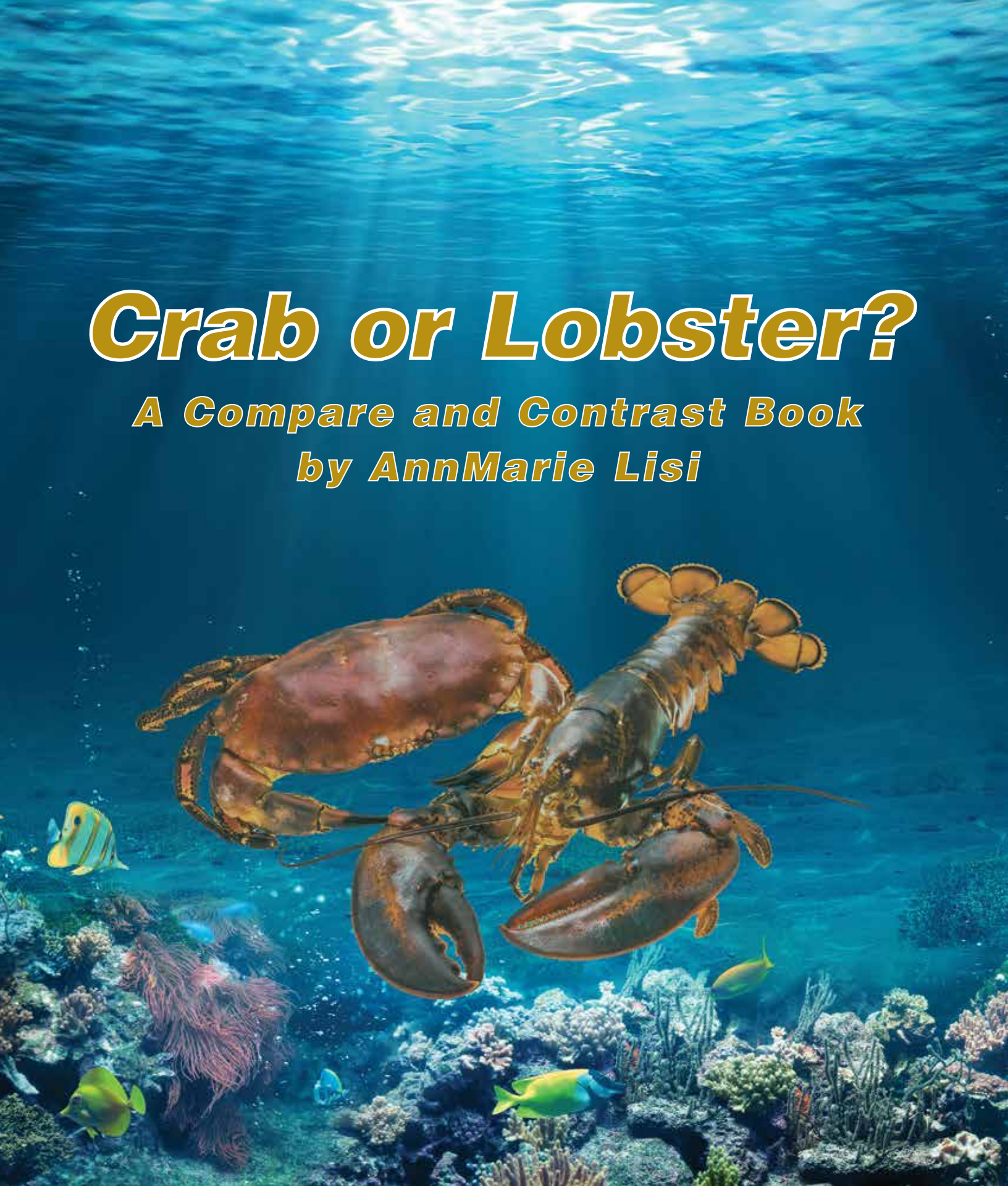
Crab or Lobster?

A Compare and Contrast Book

by AnnMarie Lisi



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What do crabs and lobsters have in common and how are they different? While both animals live in the ocean, one prefers to swim and the other to walk. One can be found in coastal tidepools and the other offshore. They both have skeletons on the outside of their bodies. There's more to these animals than just being good food for us. Learn about these fascinating crustaceans in this latest addition to the Compare and Contrast Series.

Arbordale Publishing offers so much more than a picture book. We open the door for children to explore the facts behind a story they love.

The *For Creative Minds* includes
- Crab Body Parts
- Lobster Body Parts
- Classifying Crabs and Lobsters
- Match the Arthropod

Arbordale's interactive ebooks read aloud in both English and Spanish with word-highlighting and adjustable audio speed. Available for purchase online.

A note for parents and caregivers

Helping young children develop critical thinking skills is a gift they'll have for life. The book you are holding can help you to help them do just that.

Before reading the book, ask the child(ren) how they think these animals are alike or different. That helps you to understand what they already know or if they have any misconceptions.

After reading, go back through the book together looking at photos to find and discuss things. Ask verbal children to describe or explain what they see. Even young, non-verbal children can find and point to things. For example, have children find or point to:
- claws and legs
- eyestalks
- antennae
- different colors

Ask the child(ren) children to describe one new thing they learned or found most interesting.

Do the "For Creative Minds" activities in the back of the book with them.

AnnMarie Lisi knew from an early age that she was destined to work with the ocean. Growing up in a coastal Connecticut town, she frequently visited the local beach and aquarium with her family and spent many summer days and nights fishing and exploring the rocky intertidal. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in Marine Vertebrate Biology, she began working in the education department at The Maritime Aquarium. In her current role as Associate Director of Education, AnnMarie oversees many daily operations. She has also written ***Octopus or Squid? A Compare and Contrast Book*** for Arbordale. She hopes the books will inspire kids to learn about and protect ocean animals and their habitats. When not at work, AnnMarie enjoys exploring the great outdoors with her family, doing nature photography, and cooking.

AnnMarie Lisi

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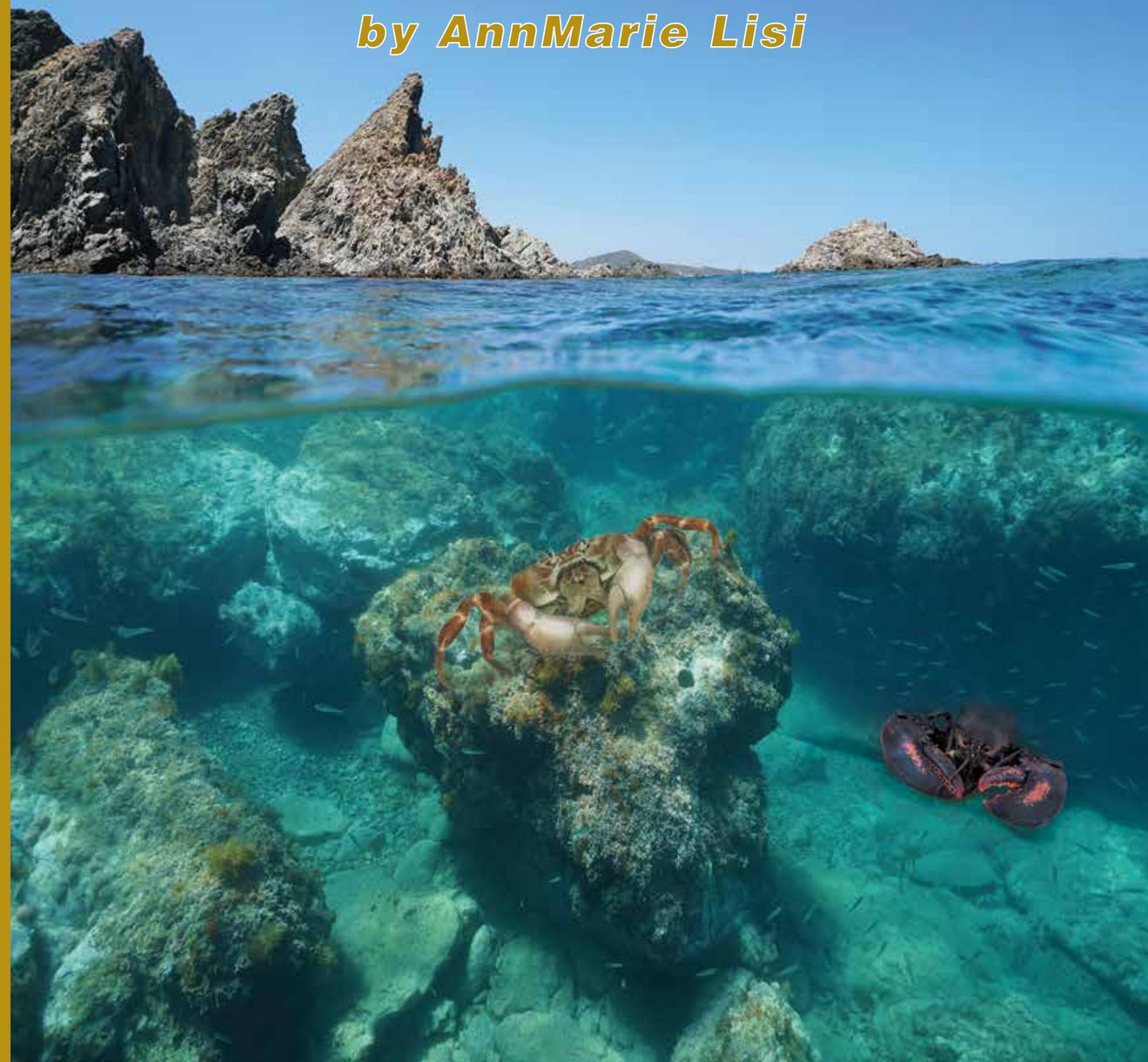


Crabs and lobsters are water-living (aquatic) crustaceans.

Unlike mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, or reptiles, crustaceans do not have a backbone—they are invertebrates. Both have skeletons on the outside of their bodies called exoskeletons. Like insects, crabs and lobsters have segmented bodies and jointed legs.

Crabs and lobsters live
in all the world's oceans.

Spiny lobster

Alaskan king crab

New England Lobster

Alaskan king crabs live in cold, Arctic waters.

New England lobsters live in the more temperate waters of the North Atlantic.

Spiny lobsters live in warm-water coral reefs in the Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas.

There are approximately 6,000 species of crabs and about 80 species of lobsters.

Rocky shorelines with tide pools are a great place to look for crabs.

Lobsters live near the coast, but you wouldn’t usually find them in a tide pool.

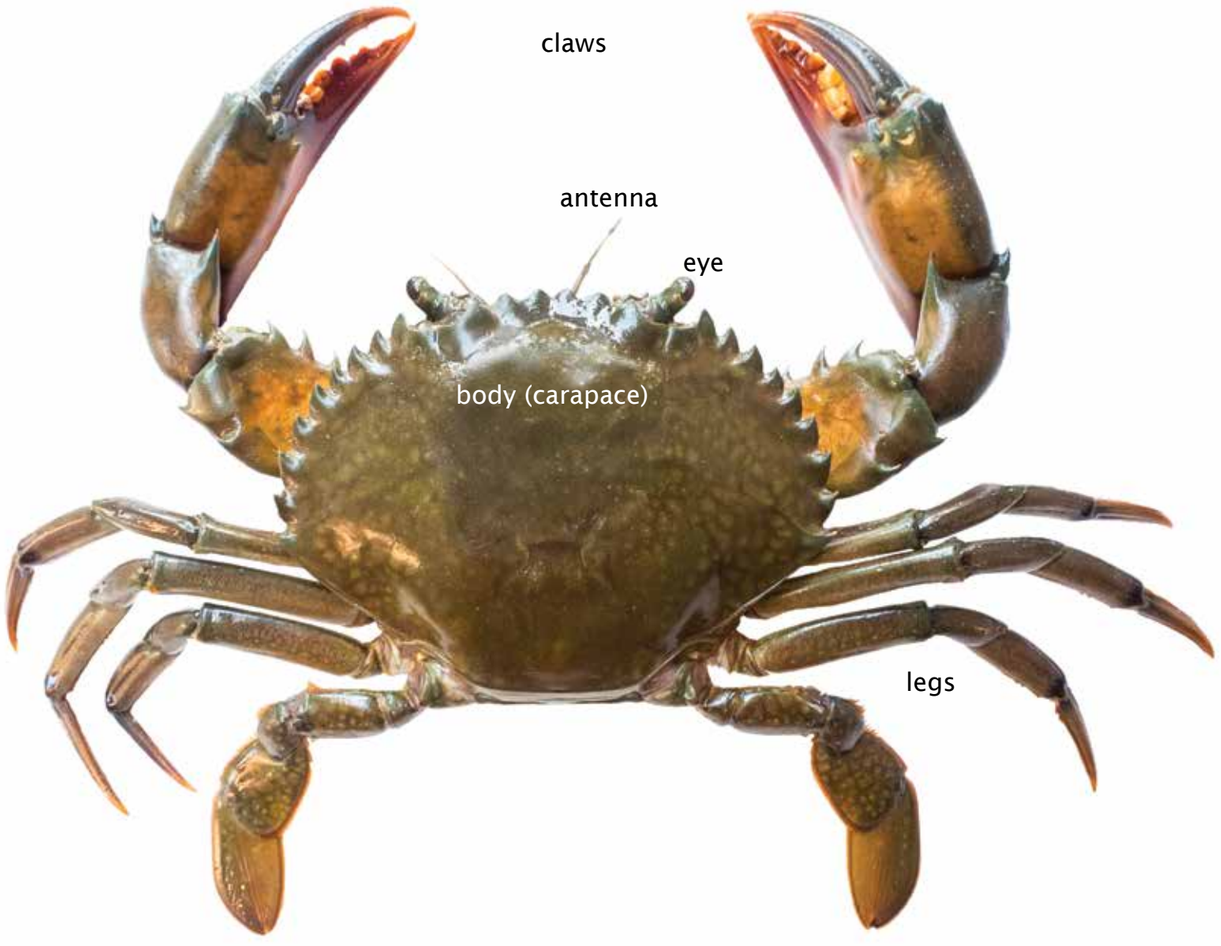
Their hard exoskeletons protect them from predators like large fish or seals.

They also hide between rocks and blend (camouflage) into their surroundings for protection.

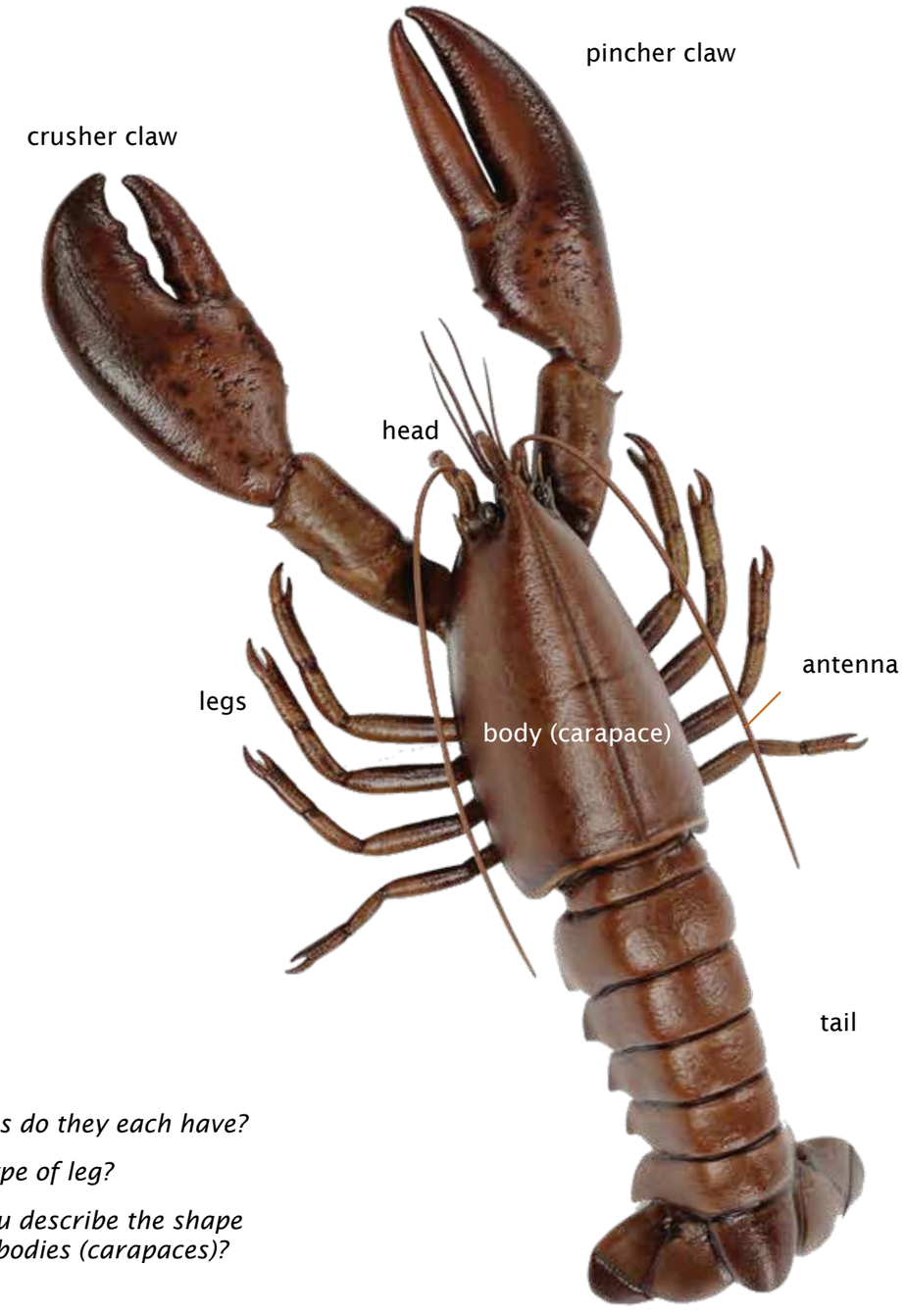
Can you find the crabs and lobsters?

For Creative Minds

Crab Body Parts



Lobster Body Parts



How many legs do they each have?

Are claws a type of leg?

How would you describe the shape of their main bodies (carapaces)?

Classifying Crabs and Lobsters

Within the Animal Kingdom, animals are initially divided into phyla. Within each phylum, the animals are then sorted into classes, then into orders, suborders, families and finally into a genus and species. No matter what language scientists speak, they use animals' genus and species to identify specific animals. Those names are always in Latin.

Let's see how crabs and lobsters are classified.

Phyla (Animals are not to size)

Vertebrates	Invertebrates				
Chordata	Annelida	Arthropoda	Cnidaria	Echinodermata	Mollusca
					

You may have already studied and learned about the five classes of animals that have backbones (Vertebrates/Chordata): mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

Did you know that there are actually more animals on the earth that do NOT have backbones? They are called invertebrates. Just like the five vertebrate classes, the invertebrate phylum is also broken into classes as shown above.

Crabs and lobsters (Crustaceans) are Arthropods (Arthropda class). Other arthropods include spiders (Arachnids), centipedes and millipedes (Myriapoda), and insects (Hexapoda).

Arthropod Subphyla (Class)

Trilobitomorpha Trilobites	Crustaceans	Myriapoda	Arachnids	Hexapoda
Extinct				

Crustaceans mostly live in the water (aquatic). They have segmented bodies and two pairs of antennae. They have a hard-shell skeleton on the outside of their bodies (exoskeleton) that they shed with a new one growing underneath (molt) as they grow.

Match the Arthropod

Can you identify which animals belong to the Arthropod classes?

Animals shown are not to size.

Arachnid: air-breathing animals with four pairs of legs (spiders & scorpions)

Crustacean: aquatic animals with segmented bodies, antennae, and exoskeleton

Hexopoda: animal with six legs and may have wings (insects)

Myriapoda: animal with a long body and similar segments (centipedes & millipedes)

beetle 	black widow spider 	blue crab 	butterfly 	centipede 
dragonfly 	fiddler crab 	fly 	hermit crab 	lobster 
millepede 	spiny lobster 	shrimp 	wasp 	wolf spider 

Note to adult: have children explain why they think the animal fits which group.

Answers:

Arachnid: black widow spider, wolf spider

Crustacean: blue crab, fiddler crab, hermit crab, lobster, spiny lobster, shrimp

Hexopoda: beetle, butterfly, dragonfly, fly, wasp

Myriapoda: centipede, millepede

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Lisi, AnnMarie, 1985- author.
Title: Crab or lobster? : a compare and contrast book / by AnnMarie Lisi.
Description: Mt. Pleasant, SC : Arbordale Publishing, [2023] | Series: Compare and contrast | Includes bibliographical references.
Identifiers: LCCN 2023054073 (print) | LCCN 2023054074 (ebook) | ISBN 9781643519906 (English paperback) | ISBN 9781638170099 (dual-language, read along) | ISBN 9781638170280 (pdf) | ISBN 9781638170471 (epub)
Subjects: LCSH: Crabs--Juvenile literature. | Lobsters--Juvenile literature. | Decapoda (Crustacea)--Juvenile literature.
Classification: LCC QL444.M33 L568 2023 (print) | LCC QL444.M33 (ebook) | DDC 595.3/84--dc23/eng/20231229
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2023054073
LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2023054074

Also available in Spanish: ***¿Cangrejo o langosta? Un libro de comparaciones y contrastes***
Spanish Paperback 9781638172918
Spanish PDF 9781638172994
Spanish ePub3 9781638173038
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