



Name: _____

Date: _____

Crustaceans:

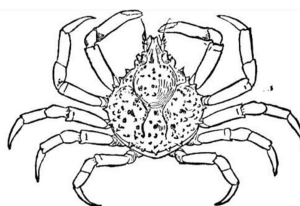
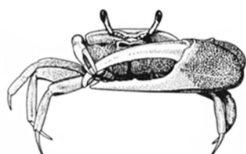
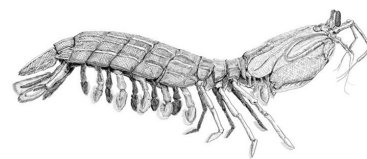
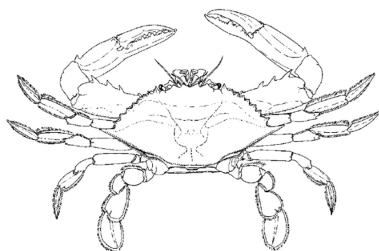
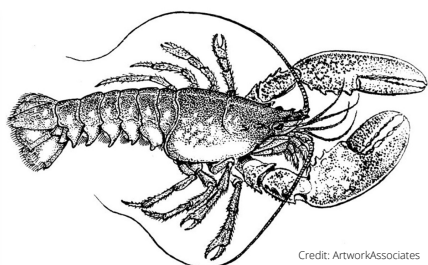
NAME THAT CRITTER

Crustaceans are a large, diverse group of organisms that all have a hard exoskeleton, 2 pairs of antennae, and a series of appendages or limbs that can be modified for feeding, swimming, or walking. Local crustaceans in New York waters include lobsters, crabs, shrimp, water fleas, copepods, krill, barnacles, and more. One well known local species, the horseshoe crab, is actually **NOT** a crab at all; they are more closely related to ticks and spiders!

WORD BANK

American lobster
Fiddler crab
Bay barnacle
Blue crab
Mantis shrimp
Spider crab

Directions: For each animal photo, write the species name from the word bank in the large orange box and in the small blue box, match the letter that goes with the correct description for that animal.



A. This animal lives in cold, shallow waters with rocky bottoms to hide from predators. They can grow very large, and are a common food item. Many people love the meat in the large, thick claws.

B. This animal prefers warmer water and can both swim and crawl along the bottom. They are aggressive predators, and are also a popular food item; many people like to eat them whole when the shell is soft.

C. This animal cannot swim, and is found attached to hard surfaces, including on the shells and bodies of other organisms in shallow water. They can open their body, extending their feeding legs to catch food that floats by.

D. This animal lives in a sandy burrow, often in a colony. They hide in their burrows, coming out mainly to feed and mate. The females have two small claws, but the males have one large and one small claw.

E. This animal is known to be slow, sluggish, and not aggressive, preferring to scavenge for food that is already dead. They are also known to "decorate" their shells with sponges or seaweeds to deter predators.

F. This animal lives in sandy burrows and is a notorious nocturnal predator. Their spear-like claws are usually folded up under their body but can be rapidly unfolded to impale their prey with great force.