

## FRESHWATER CRAYFISH

Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species
Crustacea	Malacostraca			

<b>Range:</b>	Worldwide
<b>Habitat:</b>	Freshwater ponds and streams
<b>Niche:</b>	Omnivorous, feeding on living or dead plant and animal matter.
<b>Diet:</b>	Wild: Zoo:



**Special Adaptations:** Freshwater crustaceans, resembling small lobsters, which they are related. They grow by molting; they shed their carapace (shell) when they outgrow it, and form a new hard shell. The crayfish can swim speedily backwards with forward flicks of the abdomen. They breathe through feather-like gills.

**Other:** Females carry the young under the abdomen until they hatch.

Their average lifespan is about 2-3 years, but varies with species.



## HERMIT CRAB

Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species
Crustacea	Decapoda	Coenobitidae	<i>Coenobita</i>	<i>clypeatus</i>

<b>Range:</b>	West Atlantic, Bahamas, Belize, southern Florida, Venezuela, the Virgin Islands, and the West Indies, Caribbean Islands
<b>Habitat:</b>	Tropical and subtropical areas, beaches, tidal pools and other coastal areas
<b>Niche:</b>	Herbivorous, scavengers, terrestrial
<b>Diet:</b>	Wild: animal and plant remains Zoo:



**Special Adaptations:** The West Indian top snail (*Cittarium pica*) shell is often used for its home. The hermit crab firmly attaches itself to its stolen shell by means of two hooks located on its soft abdomen. It will not let go even if you forcibly try to pull it out. The only time a hermit crab leaves its protective shell is when it outgrows it.

Hermit crab has two claws, one of which is usually about three times larger than the other. The claws are used for battle, for defense, and to procure food. The hermit crab can use its larger claw to cover the aperture of the shell for protection against predators. The hermit crab's eyes are located at the ends of two short eyestalks.

**Other:** Adults burrow and hide under the roots of large trees, and can be found a considerable distance inland. Female land hermit crabs release fertilized eggs into the ocean.

## SOWBUGS & PILLBUGS

Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species
Crustacea	Isopoda			

<b>Range:</b>	Worldwide
<b>Habitat:</b>	Dark moist microhabitats
<b>Niche:</b>	Terrestrial, scavengers, omnivores
<b>Diet:</b>	Wild: decayed organic matter and fungi Zoo:



**Special Adaptations:** They are the only crustaceans that have adapted to living their entire life on land. Sowbugs and pillbugs range in size from 1/4 to 1/2 inch long and are dark to slate gray. Their oval, segmented bodies are convex above but flat or concave underneath. They possess seven pairs of legs and two pairs of antennae (only one pair of antennae is readily visible). Sowbugs also have two tail-like appendages, which project out from the rear end of the body. Pillbugs have no posterior appendages and can roll up into a tight ball when disturbed, for which they are sometimes called "roly-polies".

**Other:** Isopods breathe with gills, so they are restricted to areas with high humidity, under rocks or logs, in leaf litter or in crevices. Some species are nocturnal.

