

CLEVER CRABS

What skills does a crab have? Perhaps you know they like to snap their pincers, or that they can walk sideways. But crabs can do so much more than that. Here are some of their hidden talents...

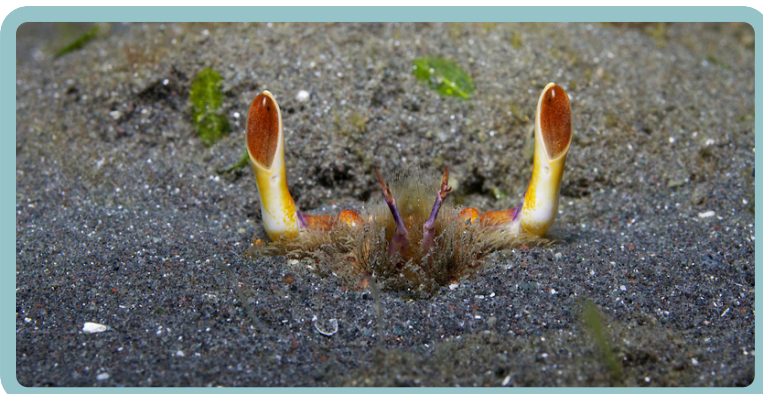
CRABS ARE NOISY

Think crabs are silent? Think again. Not only do they use their claws to make snapping or drumming sounds, they can also make noise by rubbing their body parts together. This leg-rubbing technique is called stridulation. What's more, scientists have discovered that crabs make a grinding noise with their stomachs when feeding. What a noisy bunch!



CRABS CAN SEE EVERYTHING

Crabs have eyes that are attached to their heads on a stalk - which means they can see all around them. With this 360° vision, they can sneak up on prey and keep an eye on predators too, as their eyes can keep watch while their body remains completely hidden - how clever!



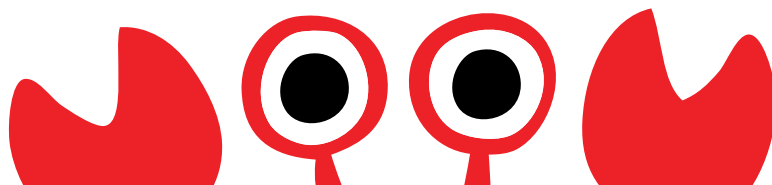
CRABS HAVE FEELINGS

Scientists have discovered that crabs can feel stressed or worried. They can also remember if something hurt them. This means they feel pain. Many people do not know this, because while crabs can make lots of noise, they do not cry out when they are in pain. This makes it hard to know if they are feeling pain or not. Now, under UK Law, they are recognised as sentient beings. The term “sentient” is used to describe living things that are capable of feeling things.



QUESTIONS

- 1.) How do crabs walk?
- 2.) What noises does a crab make?
- 3.) What does stridulation mean?
- 4.) What is clever about the eyes of a crab?
- 5.) What do crabs do to evade predators?
- 6.) Can crabs feel pain? How do we know this?
- 7.) Under UK law, what are crabs recognised as? What does this mean?
- 8.) Now we know that crabs can feel pain, how do you think this should change the way we treat them?



ANSWERS 1-7

1.) How do crabs walk?

Crabs walk sideways.

2.) What noises does a crab make?

Their claws make snapping and drumming sounds. They make noise by rubbing their body parts together. Their stomachs make a grinding noise.

3.) What does stridulation mean?

Stridulation is when a crab rubs their body parts together.

4.) What is clever about the eyes of a crab?

They can see all around them.

5.) What do crabs do to evade predators?

They can keep watch with their eyes while their body remains hidden.

6.) Can crabs feel pain? How do we know this?

Yes. Because they can remember if something hurt them.

7.) Under UK law, what are crabs recognised as? What does this mean?

They are recognised as sentient beings. This means they are capable of feeling things.

