

Science

CRUSTACEANS (NOTES)

- Animals that do not have a backbone are called **invertebrates**.
- Arthropods that have two body sections and two pairs of antennae are called **crustaceans**.
- They include invertebrates such as lobster, shrimp, crab, krill, spiny lobster and soldier crab.



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- The hard outer covering is called an **exoskeleton**.
- The exoskeleton **protects** the organs inside the animal's body.
- It also **prevents** the loss of water from the body.
- The skeleton does not grow, it **molts**. To molt means to shed the outer body covering.
- Crustaceans use **gills** to breathe and they reproduce by **laying eggs**.
- The eggs are laid in water and young crustaceans that hatch do not look like the adult.
- As they grow, their bodies change until they resemble the adult.
- Most crustaceans spend all their time in water but some crabs live all their adult lives on land.
- Crabs are the most common land crustaceans found in The Bahamas.
- The largest crab population is found on **Andros**.
- Black and pond crabs are used for food.
- The spiny lobster and crab are sold locally but the spiny lobster is an Export - sold abroad to help bring money into the Bahamian economy.
- The spiny lobster is protected by law and can only be captured during the crawfish season **August 1st to March 31st**.