

## NOTES

Arthropods are the largest group of 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.

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 (look like) 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 **Exported** - 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.**



Spiny lobster



crab



Andros Island