



CRUSTACEANS

ARMOURED INVERTEBRATES

Crustaceans belong to the group of animals called arthropods, meaning 'joint-legged'. The arthropods also include insects, spiders, scorpions and centipedes.

Crustaceans are animals:

- covered with a protective outer shell or exoskeleton;
- which have a segmented body consisting of several separate plates connected by thin flexible membranes;
- that shed their exoskeleton in order to grow, a process known as 'moulting'; and

- that at some stage of their life cycle have two pairs of antennae. Unlike other arthropods, which only have one pair or none.

Crustaceans range in size from the massive Japanese spider crab, which can have a leg span of close to four meters, to tiny crustaceans that drift about as part of the plankton.

The most recognised crustaceans include prawns, lobster and crabs but there are many more, less familiar groups such as barnacles, water fleas and sea lice.

Complete the word-fill below using these common names of crustaceans.

4 letters

Crab

5 letters

Prawn

Krill

6 letters

Shrimp

7 letters

Copepod

Lobster

8 letters

Crayfish

Barnacle

Rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to find the missing word.

Western Australia's largest native freshwater crayfish is called a _____.