



Tivi Kids, by Stacey

Exploring rock pools for crabs and other wildlife can be fun and exciting. Always take great care, walk slowly and carefully and respect the habitat and the creatures that live there; you are entering their home. Looking without touching is the best way of learning about them because they behave as if you are not there. Below you will find some interesting facts about crabs. Search the diagram to find the words underlined in the text on the left. Have fun!

Life cycle of a crab

Female crabs can carry thousands of eggs underneath their bodies where they are well-protected from predators and damage.

Zoea is the next stage of the life cycle. The zoea larvae hatch from the eggs and drift along with the ocean current. They have an outer skin, jointed limbs and a tail that is used for swimming. They filter the water to find smaller plankton to eat. Their transparency makes them hard for predators to see, but this does not stop fish and invertebrates from feeding on them.

The larvae grow through moulting which means they shed their exoskeleton, their outer covering, and grow a new one.

After moulting 4-5 times the crab changes into a megalopa larva. Their colour changes to match their surroundings and they look similar to adult crabs. Their legs develop for crawling on rocks and their tail is tucked underneath their body.

At this stage the crab begins to live at the bottom of the water. As they grow they continue to moult until they reach the adult stage. Their hard shell softens as a new shell is formed underneath and then the hard shell will crack open allowing the crab to make its way out which can take hours.



D	H	L	A	R	V	A	E
E	P	Q	F	O	A	J	N
L	R	O	C	K	S	E	W
U	E	A	T	E	H	X	P
T	D	V	X	Y	G	O	B
G	A	P	T	P	K	S	L
M	T	W	F	L	Q	K	Y
E	O	S	E	A	H	E	O
G	R	U	A	N	I	L	P
A	S	K	L	K	O	E	S
L	R	W	Y	T	R	T	E
O	F	A	B	O	I	O	Y
P	S	T	R	N	B	N	E
A	Q	E	S	E	U	L	G
F	V	R	H	K	S	P	G
K	X	E	J	L	W	D	S
C	R	A	W	L	I	N	G
O	B	Z	I	A	M	F	J
T	E	M	Q	S	M	H	Z
A	D	U	L	T	I	C	O
I	T	N	O	E	N	P	E
L	Q	U	M	R	G	J	A

Photos / John Sibley

Match the creature names to the pictures

Common Anemone

Clown Nudibranch

Spotted Sea Hare

Purple Rock Crab

Common Cushion Star



Photos / Glen Webber, John Sibley and Simon Fordham