

Crayfish Lab Questions

What is the main difference between the cephalothorax and the abdomen?

Which appendages in the cephalic region are related to the eating of food?

How are the maxillipeds related to eating?

Is your specimen a male or a female?

From which view, dorsal or ventral, can you see the location of the appendages on the segments more clearly?

Rows of chitinous teeth line the stomach. What is their function.

The feathery nature of the gills gives them a very large surface area. Why is this important?

What organs in your body carry out the same function as the green glands?



After Dissection Questions

1. What structures are used for capturing prey and securing and eating food?
2. How are the antennae, chelipeds, other walking legs, and swimmerets related?
3. Is the crayfish most vulnerable to its enemies from the dorsal or ventral side? Why?
4. The crayfish usually molts, or sheds its exoskeleton, twice a year. Why does the crayfish "hide" after it molts?
5. Compare what happens to digested nutrients and undigested food in a crayfish
6. What is the major function of the exoskeleton of a crayfish? How is the exoskeleton an adaptive advantage to the crayfish?