

CHAPTER 31 ARTHROPODS

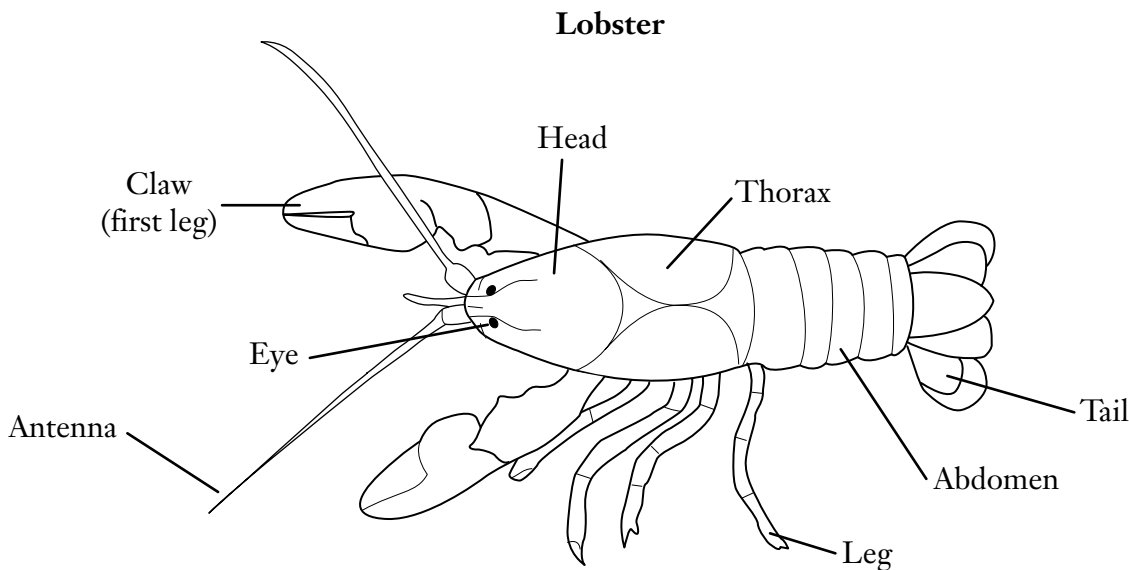
Get the Big Picture

Read the paragraphs in the boxes and study the picture. Then answer the questions.

The arthropods are the largest group of animals in the world. This group includes crabs, spiders, insects, and many extinct fossil forms. Arthropods have many different body shapes and sizes, but they all have:

1. paired, jointed legs or appendages
2. a hard, armored exoskeleton that protects them and prevents water loss
3. segmented bodies
4. an open circulatory system with a dorsal heart

In order to grow, arthropods shed their exoskeletons in a process called **molting**. Arthropods live both in the ocean and on the land. Although some arthropods are considered pests, many of them, including shrimp and crabs, can be eaten by humans. Many arthropods eat other arthropods, and help keep Earth from being overrun by these successful animals.



1. Name one characteristic of arthropods. _____

2. How do arthropods grow? _____

3. **True or false?** Arthropods are all herbivores (eat only plants). _____