

# The Education Program at the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

22 Magruder Road Fort Hancock, NJ 07732 732-872-1300 [njseagrants.org](http://njseagrants.org)



## Build-A-Horseshoe Crab Fact Cards

**Cut along lines**

<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Horseshoe crabs are not crabs at all. Horseshoe crabs belong to the same animal family as insects. Their closest relatives are spiders.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium <a href="http://njseagrants.org">njseagrants.org</a></p>	<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>A Horseshoe crab can have many other animals attached to its shell from barnacles to blue mussels, slipper snails, and worms.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium <a href="http://njseagrants.org">njseagrants.org</a></p>
<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>The Lenape Indians used the horseshoe crab's shell to empty water from their dug-out canoes, and they used its tail as a spear tip.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium <a href="http://njseagrants.org">njseagrants.org</a></p>	<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Birds depend on eating the eggs of the horseshoe crab to complete their migration.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium <a href="http://njseagrants.org">njseagrants.org</a></p>
<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Horseshoe crabs have seven pairs of legs under their hard shells. Adult males have two special claws called pedipalps up front that look like small boxing gloves.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium <a href="http://njseagrants.org">njseagrants.org</a></p>	<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Female horseshoe crabs lay their Eggs in late May and early June, at the time of the full or new moon. Some females can lay up to 20,000 pale green eggs.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium <a href="http://njseagrants.org">njseagrants.org</a></p>

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<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Horseshoe crabs can live to be 30 years old. In comparison, the blue claw crab lives a maximum of four years!</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium njseagrants.org</p>	<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Much of what we know about how our eye works began over 50 years ago with scientists studying the horseshoe crab's large compound eyes.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium njseagrants.org</p>
<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Females grow up to be larger than males by 30% or about one third.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium njseagrants.org</p>	<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Horseshoe crabs have been on earth For at least 100 million years! They were already here when the dinosaurs arrived.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium njseagrants.org</p>
<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>A horseshoe crab is virtually a walking hotel, with any number of creatures living attached to it's shell, from barnacles to blue mussels, slipper shells, bryozoans, sponges, flatworms, and microscopic bacteria and diatoms.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium njseagrants.org</p>	<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Horseshoe crabs were among the dominant species 100 million years before the dinosaurs arrived! Once there were numerous species of horseshoe crabs, but only four species exist in the world today.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium njseagrants.org</p>

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<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Horseshoe crabs, some scientists speculate, can live to be 30 years old. Maturity for breeding takes until the age of 8 or 9. In comparison, the blue claw crab reaches maturity at 18 months and lives a maximum of four years!</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium <a href="http://njseagrant.org">njseagrant.org</a></p>	<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p><i>Limulus Polyphemus</i> is the single most-studied invertebrate animal in the world! Much of what we know about our eye function began over 50 years ago with scientists studying the Horseshoe crab's large compound eyes!</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium <a href="http://njseagrant.org">njseagrant.org</a></p>
<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Horseshoe crabs have been observed mating from April till December, but mating activity peaks during the highest tides in late May and early June, at a time of the full or new moon. Some females can lay up to 20,000 pastel green eggs.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium <a href="http://njseagrant.org">njseagrant.org</a></p>	<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Horseshoe crabs are colored to match the muddy or sandy bottoms on which they live. They may range from dark olive brown to light tan.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium <a href="http://njseagrant.org">njseagrant.org</a></p>
<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>Adult horseshoe crabs rarely swim, but when they do, they swim upside down, moving their book gills in a successive wave.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium <a href="http://njseagrant.org">njseagrant.org</a></p>	<p>Horseshoe Crab Fact:</p> <p>The horseshoe crab's Telson (tail) isn't poisonous as some people believe. However it does have an important use, it helps overturned crabs to right themselves.</p> <p>New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium <a href="http://njseagrant.org">njseagrant.org</a></p>

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