

The Education Program at the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

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INCREDIBLE CRUSTACEANS

This half-day program focuses on the crustaceans (crabs, shrimp, lobsters and barnacles) native to the New Jersey shore. Through hands on activities children will learn how to identify the many captivating clawed species found along the shore, interesting facts and adaptations. Students will make and take a blue crab model to learn the anatomy and facts about these "beautiful swimmers."

Through discussion and instruction, your field guide will cover the following key concepts during the program:

- Crustacean species classification, identification and anatomy
- Behaviors and adaptations of many different species of crustaceans (crabs, shrimp, lobsters)
- Function and importance of the habitats of crustaceans (salt marsh and ocean)
- The economic importance of many crustaceans to recreational and commercial fisheries.
- Human impact on habitats and populations

Students will participate in the following activities:

- Seining- students will use a net to collect a sample of crustaceans that can be found in a salt marsh and other species found in the same community.
- Crabbing Techniques - students will use different techniques, such as trapping or dip nets, used by recreational crabbers to capture crabs.
- Crafts- Build a Blue Crab or Love a Lobster.

References:

- <http://mbgnet.mobot.org/salt/oceans/animals/crustaceans.htm>
- http://www.njscuba.net/biology/sw_crabs.html
- <http://www.vims.edu/bridge/crustacean.html>
- <http://www.ncfisheries.net/kids/crustaceans.htm>
- <http://www.mesa.edu.au/friends/seashores/crustaceans.html>
- <http://www.bluecrab.org>



The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJS GC) is an affiliation of colleges, universities and other groups dedicated to advancing knowledge and stewardship of New Jersey's marine and coastal environment. NJS GC meets its mission through its innovative research, education and outreach programs. For more information about NJS GC, visit njseagrants.org.