

Crayfish Pre-lab Worksheet

The following worksheet must be successfully completed before you start the actual dissection of the crayfish.

Introduction

1. What phylum does the Crayfish belong? _____
2. Name two common characteristics crayfish share w/ annelids
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
3. Name three differences crayfish have w/ annelids
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
4. To cut away the hard exoskeleton properly, what two tools are recommended:
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____

External Features

5. The body is divided into two parts. Name them
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
6. How many major limbs? _____
7. What are the pinchers called? _____
8. Identify these external features and describe their function/location:
 - a. Cephalothorax _____
 - b. Cervical Groove _____
 - c. Abdomen _____
 - d. Swimmerets _____
 - e. Compound eye _____
 - f. Rostrum _____
 - g. Antenna _____
 - h. Antennule _____
 - i. Cheliped _____
 - j. Uropod _____
 - k. Telson _____
 - l. Walking legs _____
 - m. Maximilliped _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ 50 points possible

Internal Features

9. Identify these internal features and describe their location, appearance and function:

- a. Brain _____
- b. Green gland _____
- c. Ventral nerve cord _____
- d. Cardiac stomach _____
- e. Pyloric stomach _____
- f. Intestine _____
- g. Digestive gland _____
- h. Ventral Nerve Cord _____
- i. Gills _____
- j. Anus _____
- k. Bladder _____

Beginning the Dissection

10. After placing the specimen in the dissecting pan, what do you do next?

11. Describe the next cut you will do. _____

12. When you remove this part of the cephalothorax, what is exposed? _____

13. What is the chamber called that houses the gills? _____

14. Describe the water flow over the gills: _____

15. With the crayfish on the tray, dorsal side up, name three organs that will be visible once the carapace is removed? _____, _____, _____

16. Describe your next set of cuts: _____

Natural History

17. Crayfish are active after sunset and before sunrise. What form of activity is this?

18. What does the crayfish normally feed on? _____

19. Where are the eggs stored in the female? _____

20. How many eggs can normally be laid by the female? _____