

Teaching Notes & Resources

By Karen Witt

Little Steps Publishing



The CLAW by Karen Witt & Illustrated by Aaron Pocock

The Claw

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Notes & resources developed by Karen Witt and are available for free at
www.theclawbooks.com

Check out the book trailer at www.theclawbooks.com



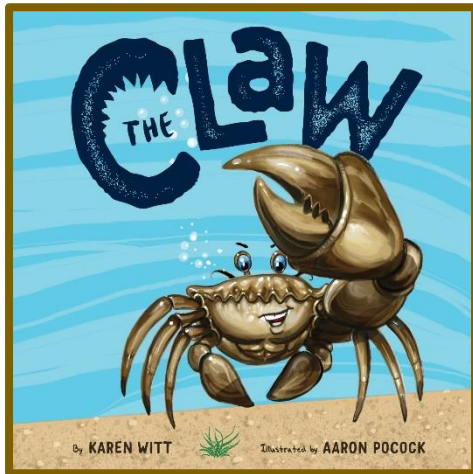
The CLAW by Karen Witt & Illustrated by Aaron Pocock

Contents

Educator Notes	Page
About <i>The Claw</i> – Synopsis and Teaching Themes	4 - 7
About the Author	8
About the Illustrator	9
Support Services for Children	10
 Resources / Activities & Worksheets	
Wordsearch	11
Fill in the Missing Words	12
Write a Story	13
Dot to Dot	14
Colouring In	15 - 20
Crab Origami	21
Mud Crab Fact Sheet	22
Blue Swimmer Crab Fact Sheet	23
Fact Sheets Knowledge Quiz	24
Crossword Puzzle	25 - 26
Story Knowledge True or False	27 - 28
How to Draw a Crab Step by Step Guide	29



About *The Claw*



“Clive was charming, friendly and chipper, and on each side of his body, he boasted a nipper.”

But... when Clive loses a nipper one terrible night, he also loses his confidence. Can Clive rise to the occasion when a greedy fisherman, Mr Beerbellio, arrives in the bay hungry for crab sandwiches?

Synopsis

In *The Claw*, Clive the friendly mud crab has everything going for him, until one night he loses one of his nippers. Clive ‘throws’ one of his nippers in fright when he’s confronted by crab bullies. This actual crab behaviour is a self defence mechanism and survival strategy.

Despondent, Clive hides in the weed feeling ashamed and sad. He is approached by a kind and friendly crab called Jenny to come and play with all of the other crabs, however, Clive politely declines. *“I’m different”* he says, feeling like he is half a crab now that he only has one nipper.

Clive wallows in self-pity and watches from a distance as the other crabs frolic and play. One day he notices crabs disappearing to the surface and investigates to discover a gruff and greedy fisherman, Mr Norman Beerbellio, catching crabs for his lunch! Clive needs to draw upon all of his inner and outer strength to leave the safety of the weeds, expose his physical difference and triumph over Mr Beerbellio.

In *The Claw*, we learn about the value of friendships, difference, acceptance and that it’s okay to be yourself.



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Teaching Themes

The notable teaching themes within *The Claw* centre around the following:

Difference

Clive has everything going for him. He is charming, friendly and chipper. Overnight his life changes when he loses one of his nippers. Even though crab nippers eventually grow back, Clive is suddenly and noticeably different. He thinks that the crab community will view him as weak. In Clive's own despondent words, he sighs "*I'm only half a crab now*". Clive goes on to say that "*Mud crabs are born to be big and strong. But with only one nipper, I don't belong*".

Clive hides in the weed, ashamed at his physical difference. He distances himself from the other crabs that he was so playfully engaged with during the first scene of the book. Clive wallows in self-pity.

One day, a kind and friendly crab called Jenny notices Clive. She invites him to join in play with her and the other crabs. Clive politely declines, still wallowing in self-pity. "*I'm different*" he says.

It isn't until later in the book that Clive learns that ***being different can actually be what makes you shine***. Clive may only have one nipper, but it is the incredible strength of his nipper combined with his courage and bravery that triumphs in the end. He learns that he needn't have hid in the weed, as despite his physical difference, he was a big and strong mud crab all along.

We all learn in *The Claw* that it's okay to be different and that being different doesn't make you inferior.



Acceptance

Clive struggles to accept his physical difference of having only one nipper. But as the plot unfolds and Clive realises that his friends are in trouble, he finds the inner strength to come out of hiding. His difference seems insignificant in comparison to the awful predicament of his friends, including Jenny, the kind crab who invited him to play.

Clive uses his inner and physical strength to triumph over the greedy fisherman Mr Beerbellio. He is instantly idolised by the crab community for his act of courage and bravery that freed the crabs and saved the day.

Clive's self-doubt transforms into self-worth as he realises and accepts that being different doesn't matter. In the end Clive accepts his physical difference with pride. He realises that the other crabs like him for who he is and what he has achieved, regardless of his appearance.

In *The Claw* we learn to accept ourselves for who we are, and that how we see ourself is not necessarily how others see us. When we accept and believe in ourselves, we can do incredible things!

Self Worth / Self Love

In *The Claw* we share in the transformation journey of Clive from a place of despair and self-doubt, into one of self-worth and self-love. Whilst his physical difference remains unchanged, Clive accepts himself for who he is which fuels self-confidence within. Clive emerges at the end of the story completely at ease with himself.

In *The Claw* we learn to love ourselves for who we are, and that we all have unique qualities and strengths within.



The Value of Friendships

When Clive loses his nipper, he assumes that no-one will like him, or may judge him, because of his physical difference. This isn't the case at all. Jenny and Snippy both visit Clive and invite him to play, unperturbed about his physical difference. Jenny kindly reassures Clive that it's okay to be different when she says "*We're all different, my friend. There's no need to worry and no need to hide*".

Clive doesn't feel worthy of friendship and continues to hide in the weed, but he is silently grateful for their kindness. When Clive discovers that his friends are in trouble, he doesn't hesitate to help them. He moves straight into action and draws upon all of his strength to rescue his friends and free them from the clutches of Mr Beerbellio.

Clive's friends are grateful to Clive and elevate him to hero status within the crab community. They are happy to be freed from Beerbellio's clutch and delighted to have their friend, Clive, out of the weed and back in the crab community.

We learn the importance and the value of friendship in *The Claw*, and that friends stick together, no matter what.



The AUTHOR - Karen Witt



Karen Witt is a Senior Child Protection Caseworker, Youth Justice Conference Convenor, Disaster Welfare Coordinator and Registered Adoptions Counsellor.

Karen has a Bachelor of Social Science (Welfare Studies) from the University of Newcastle and a Graduate Certificate of Business Administration from Charles Sturt University.

Karen was born in Binya, Griffith, and raised on the Central Coast of NSW, where she currently lives with her husband and two daughters.

Karen enjoys surfing, fishing and trail bike riding. She and her family share their time between the coast and the country in Merrygoen, where they have a working farm with goats, sheep, cows and alpacas.

Karen is available for school visits and events.



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The ILLUSTRATOR - Aaron Pocock



Aaron Pocock was born in England in 1970 and has lived in Brisbane since 2000.

A lifelong passion, art became his day job in 2007.

Aaron has illustrated books, packaging, murals, tattoo designs and (*almost*) anything else required! A versatile artist, Aaron is comfortable using multiple mediums, working in different sizes, and rendering varied subject matter.

In 2011, Aaron was chosen to illustrate the Australia Post commemorative stamp set 'Mythical Creatures' for 'Children's Book Week' which was produced in 3D (a first for Australia). His designs were minted in coins and other various memorabilia merchandise.

Aaron is available for teaching, visits and events.



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Support Services for Children

Should any personal issues arise for children when reading *The CLAW*, particularly as Clive is bullied by other crabs at the beginning of the story, consider contacting the following children's support services as appropriate:

LIFELINE: 13 11 14
www.lifeline.org.au

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636
www.beyou.edu.au



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Wordsearch

Y Z J V E E H S B I F G T E I
T R E E V I T O E E U E G P M
E O G I N A V R E Y P P I N S
K D L N R N R Y R H U C M K O
C C E F U U Y T B V D Z Q B C
U X I E J H Q A E S A L T Y L
B S H C W P O T L T P F Q R A
H D R P O Y Y H L I P P Y G W
Z A W I X A T M I A R K A Q S
B T A O B G V K O B A O K M U

Find the words:

BAIT

BOAT

CLIVE

JENNY

SNIPPY

BAY

BUCKET

CRAB

POT

STARFISH

BEERBELLIO

CLAW

HUNGRY

SALTY

WEED



Fill in the Missing Words

Clive was charming, friendly and _____,
and on both sides of his body he boasted a _____.

Clive sulked in the _____, day after day
and watched the other crabs _____ and play.

On the surface a _____ swirled into the bay,
thunder clapped and the _____ turned grey.

The _____ on the water all headed for shore.
Only one _____ went out for more.

Norman Beerbellio was _____ and a _____.
His belly was one big blubbery _____.

Bravely they boarded the rusty old _____,
and hid on the fringe of Beerbellio's _____.

His nipper was _____, the crabs were in awe.
In fact, his nipper was an incredible _____.



Write a Story

In the next book of The Claw trilogy, called *The Incredible Claw*, Mr Beerbellio returns *hungrier* than ever, and this time he brings a big wire crab trap! The story begins:

“As the sun sizzled Beerbellio’s nose, he pulled out a trap he’d carefully stowed.

It was made of wire, sturdy and strong. The trap was perfect, *what could go wrong?*”

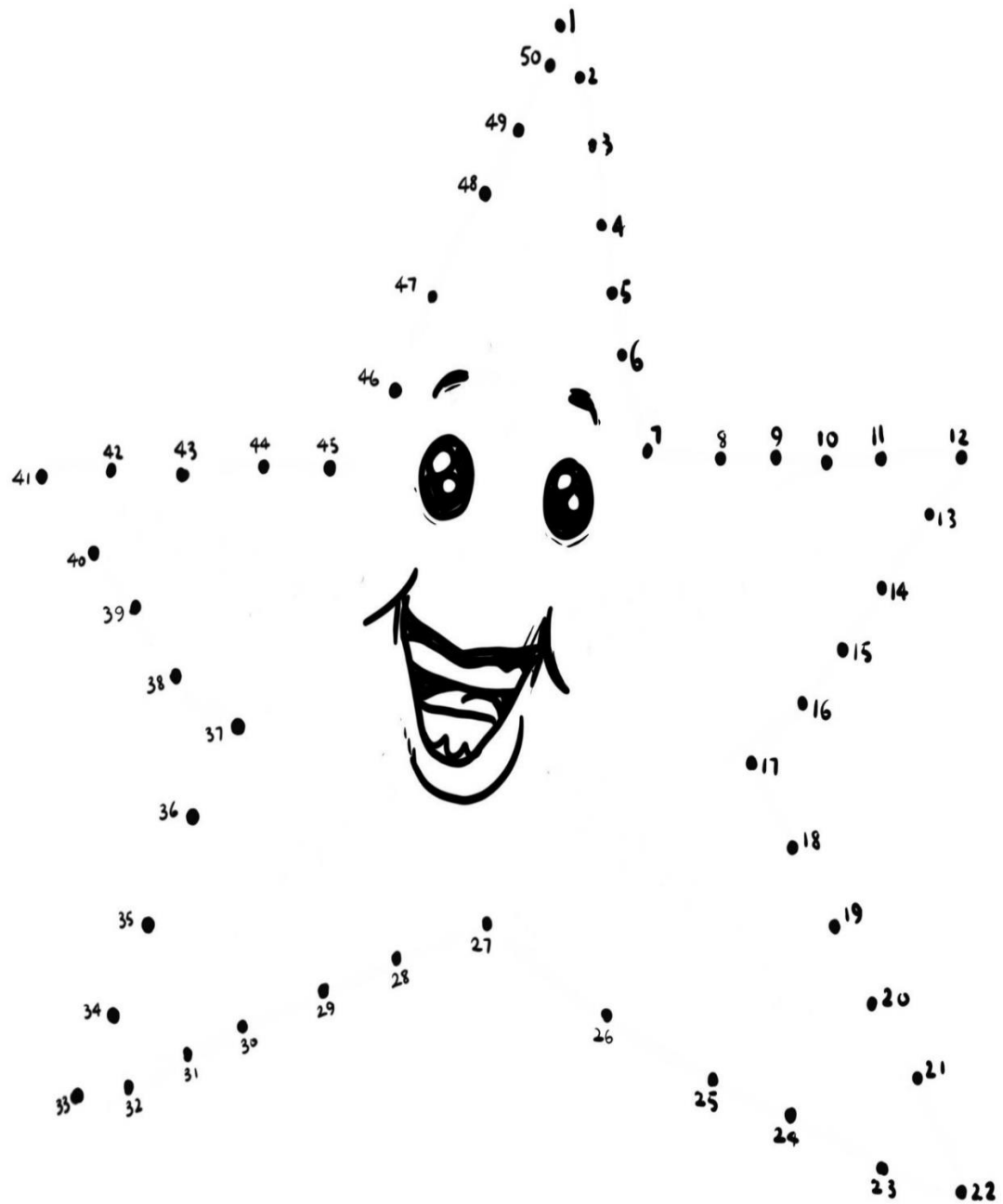
Write a story about what you think might happen in the next book.



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Dot to Dot

Salty the Starfish

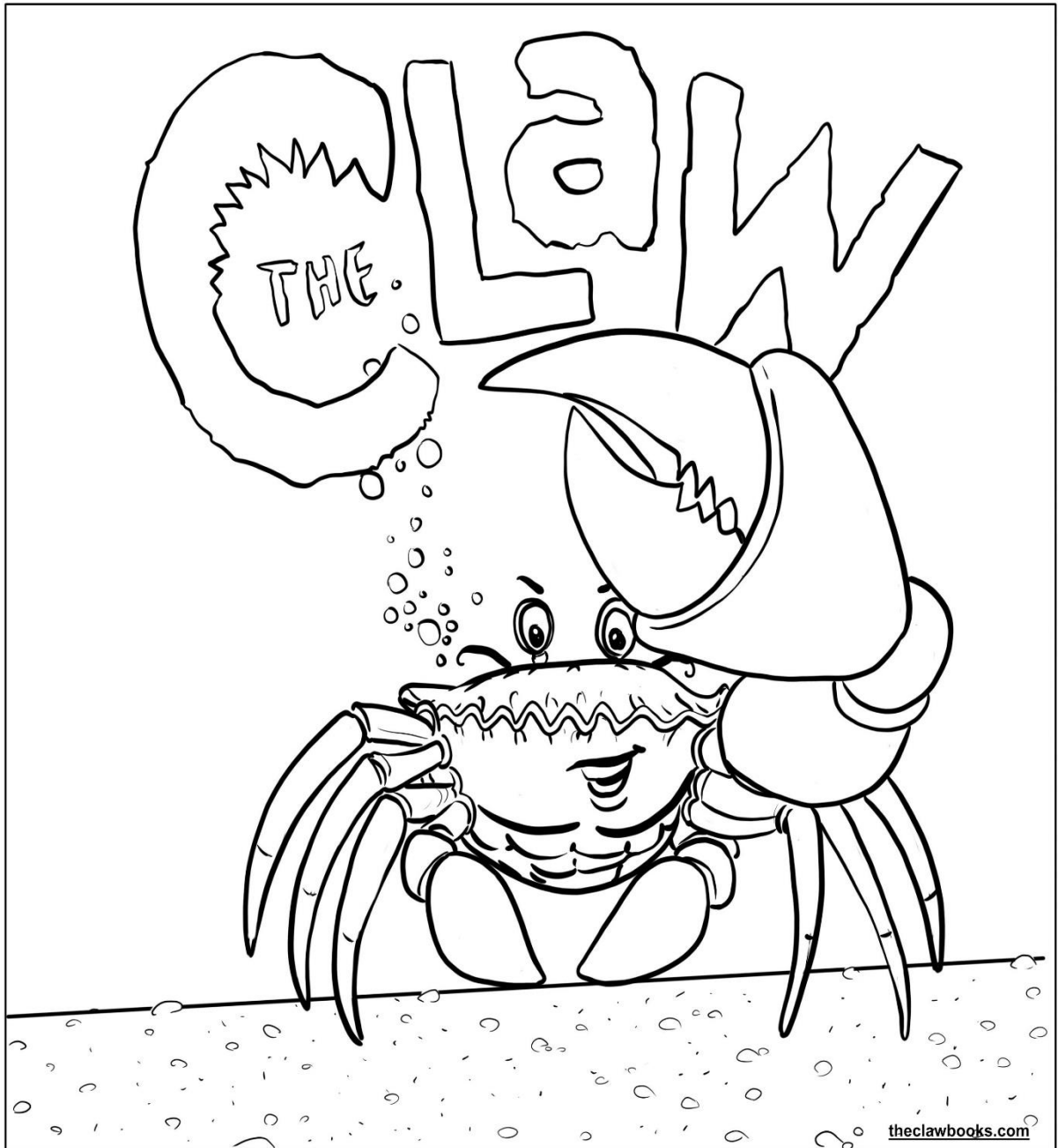


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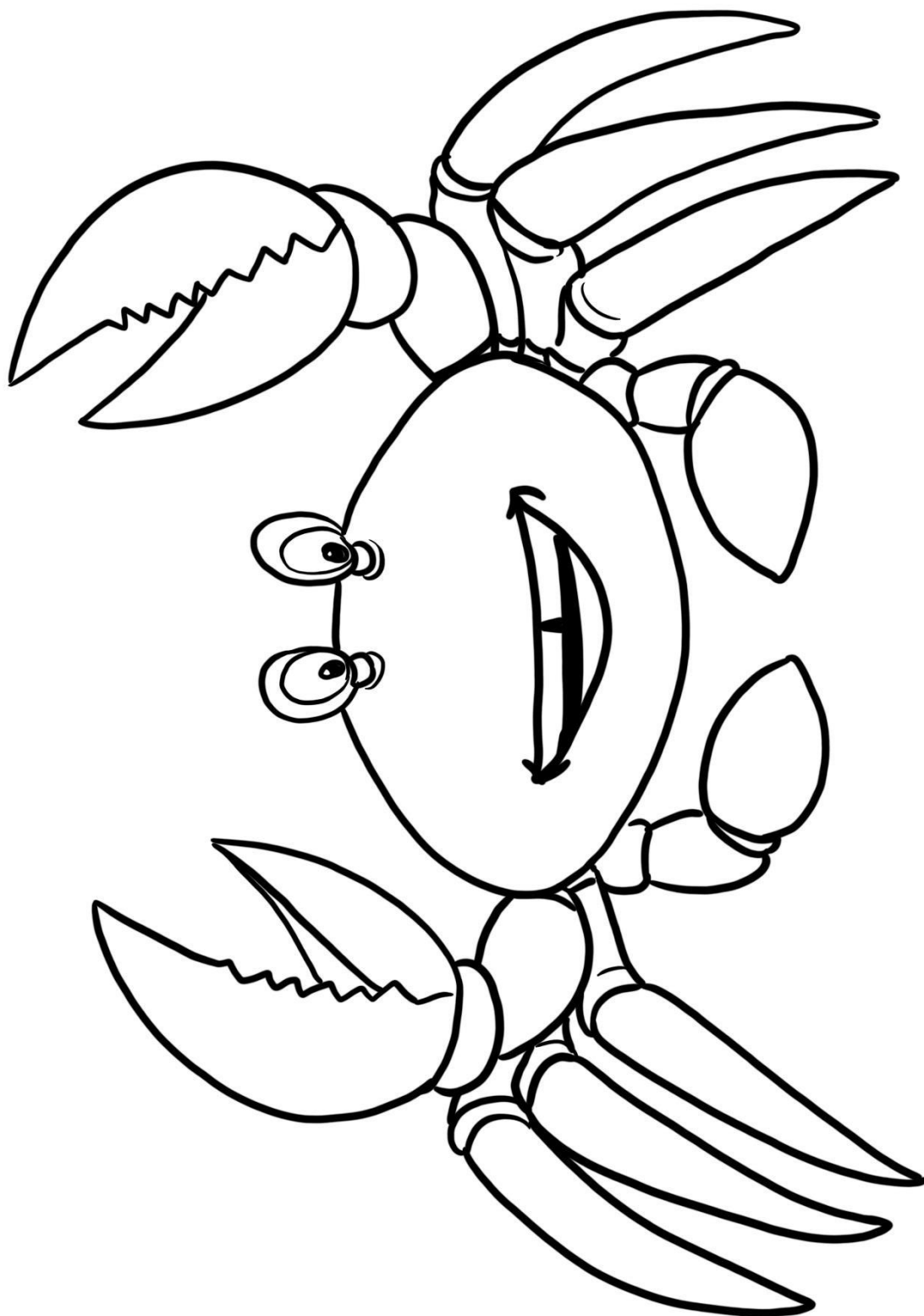
Colouring In

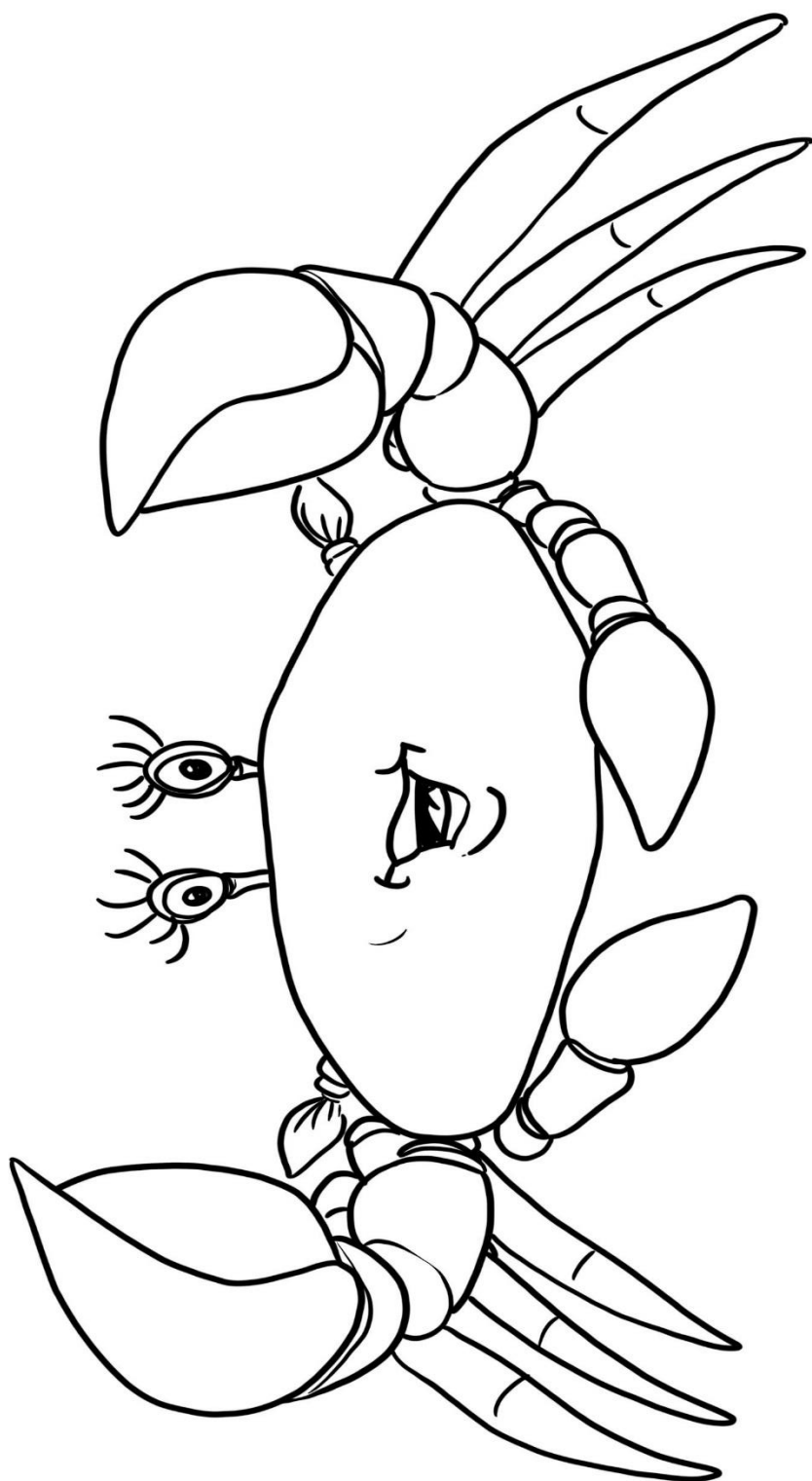


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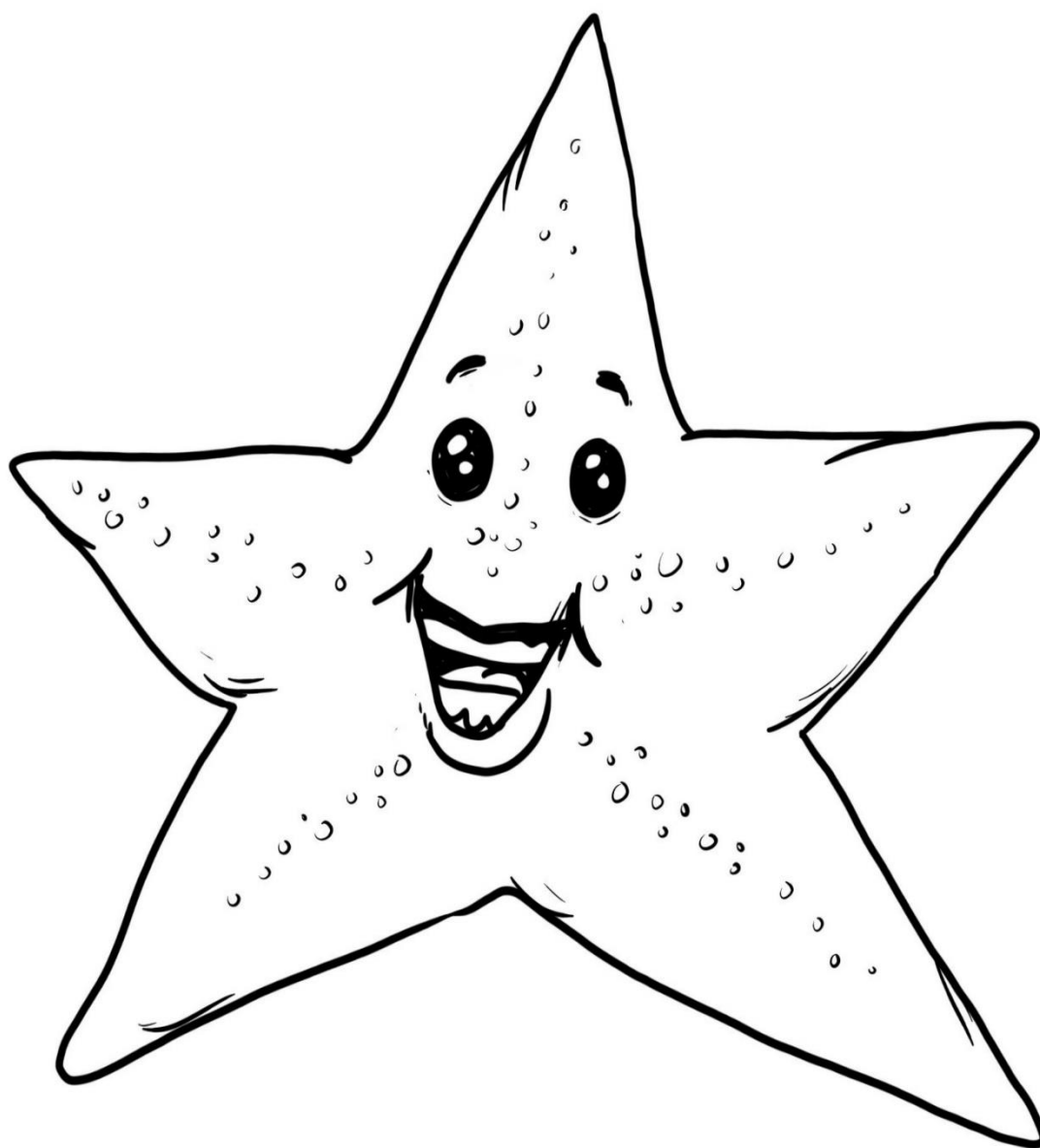




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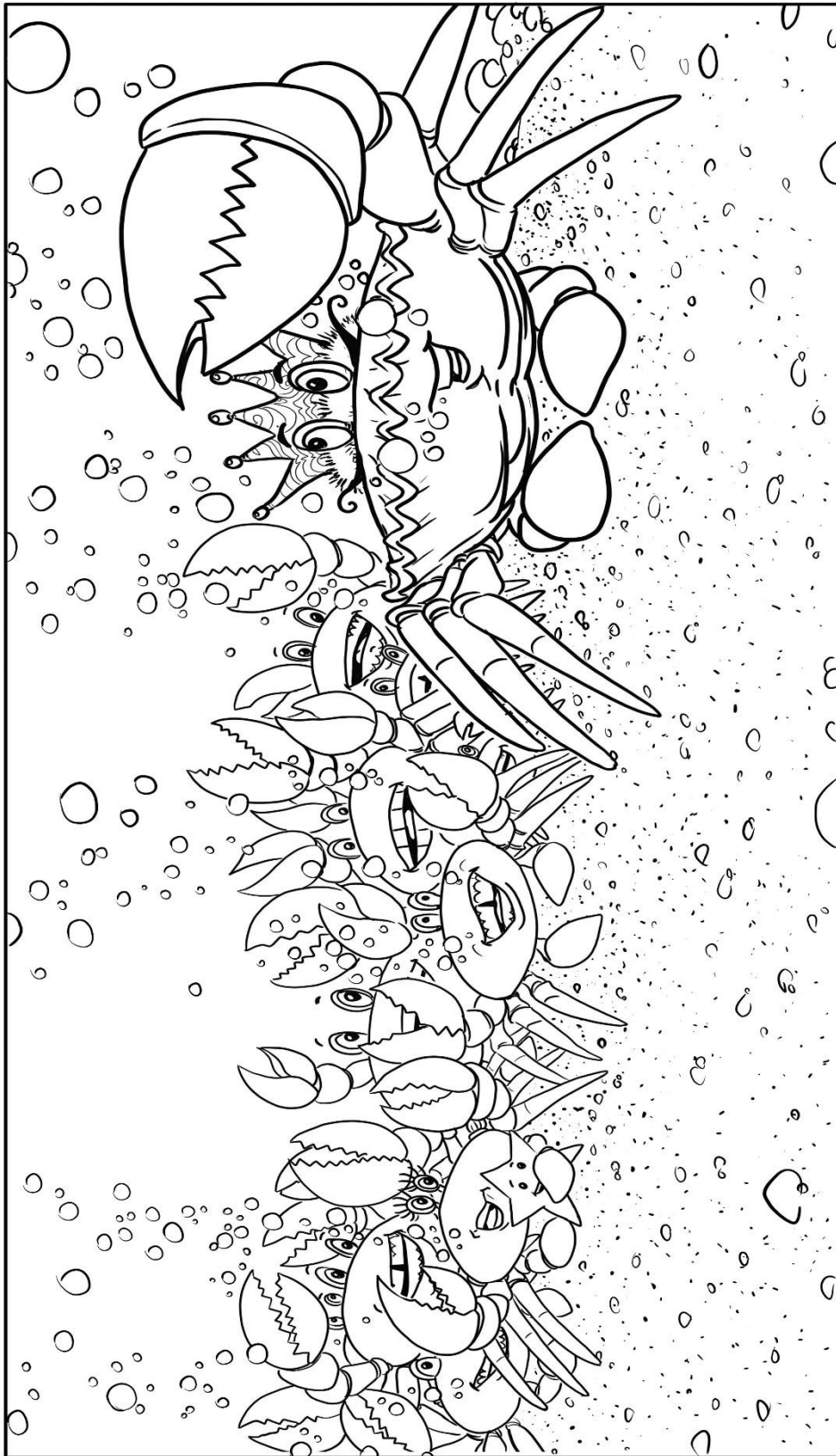
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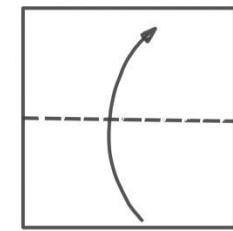
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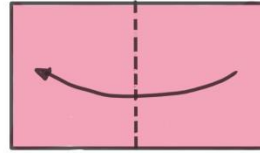
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Crab Origami

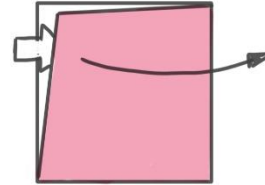
MAKE YOUR OWN ORIGAMI CRAB



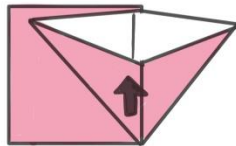
1 STEP 1)
Fold the paper in half.



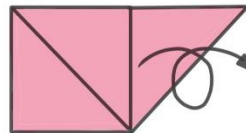
2 STEP 2)
Fold the paper in half again.



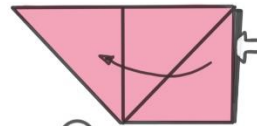
3 STEP 3)
Open up the top flap of paper over to the right.



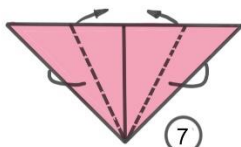
4 STEP 4)
Squash Fold this flap flat.



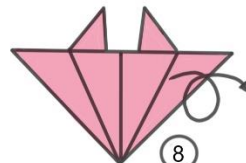
5 STEP 5)
Turn the paper over.



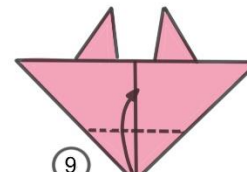
6 STEP 6
Open up the top flap of paper over to the left and Squash Fold it flat.



7 STEP 7
Fold the top flaps of paper behind along the dotted lines.



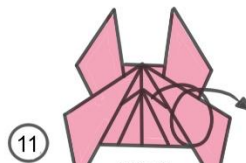
8 STEP 8
Turn the paper over.



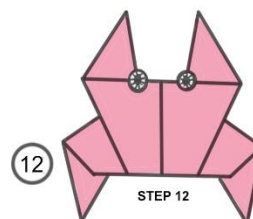
9 STEP 9
Fold the bottom part of the paper up along the dotted line.



10 STEP 10
Fold the side flaps of paper down along the dotted lines.



11 STEP 11
Turn the paper over.



12 STEP 12
The completed crab

Source - origami.me/crab-2/

theclawbooks.com



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FACT SHEET - AUSTRALIAN MUD CRAB



Characteristics

Mud Crabs are a large crustacean with a broad, smooth, hard shell called a 'carapace'. They have big claws used for crushing and cutting prey. Mud Crabs have two back legs that are flattened for swimming, like flippers. Mud Crabs are generally very dark brown to mottled green in colour.

Size

Mud Crabs can reach up to 24cm across the carapace (shell) and weigh up to 3.5kgs.

Habitat

Mud Crabs are saltwater crabs that live in tropical to warm temperate water along most of the coast of Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales. They love soft muddy banks below the low tide level, and generally live in sheltered bays, mud flats, mangroves and in creeks.

Diet

Mud Crabs are omnivores. They eat both plant and meat. They are also cannibals as they eat other crabs! Mud Crabs like fresh food, in particular fish, kangaroo, steak and chicken.

Did you know?

A male crab is called a Buck and a female crab is called a Jenny.

In the book *The Claw*, Clive is a mud crab and both Snippy and Jenny are blue swimmer crabs.



FACT SHEET - AUSTRALIAN BLUE SWIMMER CRAB



Characteristics

Blue Swimmer Crabs are crustaceans with a broad, hard, rough shell called a 'carapace'. Their carapace has a pointy spike that sticks out on each side. Blue Swimmer Crabs have long, slender claws used for catching, holding and crushing prey. They have two back legs that are flattened for swimming, like flippers or paddles. Blue Swimmer Crabs vary in colour from brown to blue and purple, with pale mottling. Females have distinct peachy, orange coloured nippers and are usually much smaller in size than the males.

Size

Blue Swimmer Crabs can reach up to 21cm across the carapace (shell) and weigh up to 1kg.

Habitat

Blue Swimmer Crabs are saltwater crabs that live in coastal waters all around Australia, except for the southern stretch where the water is very cold. They are frequently found in large numbers in shallow and sheltered bays and on the edge of weedy banks.

Diet

Blue Swimmer Crabs are omnivores. They eat both plant and meat. They are also cannibals as they eat other crabs! Blue Swimmer Crabs like fresh food, in particular fish, kangaroo, steak and chicken.

Did you know?

A male crab is called a Buck and a female crab is called a Jenny.
In the book *The Claw*, Clive is a Mud Crab and both Snippy and Jenny are Blue Swimmer Crabs.



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Fact Sheets Knowledge Quiz Test

(accompanies Crab Fact Sheets)

Circle the correct answer

1. What is a carapace on a crab?

Shell

Tongue

Flipper

2. How heavy can Mud Crabs get?

3kg

3.5kg

1kg

3. What do crabs like to eat?

Chicken

Fish

People

4. What is a female crab called?

Mrs Crab

Jenny

Suzy

5. What is a male crab called?

Mr Crab

Trevor

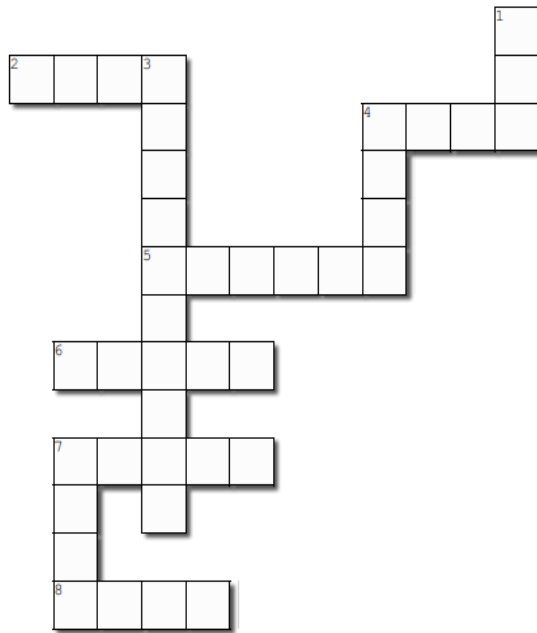
Buck



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Name: _____

The CLAW Crossword Puzzle



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

2. Clive, Snippy and Jenny are all this type of animal.
4. Something you sit in when you are on the water.
5. Where Beerbellio keeps the crabs in the boat. A big blue ...
6. The name of the starfish hiding throughout The Claw book.
7. The name of the crab who loses his nipper.
8. The place where Clive hides.

Down

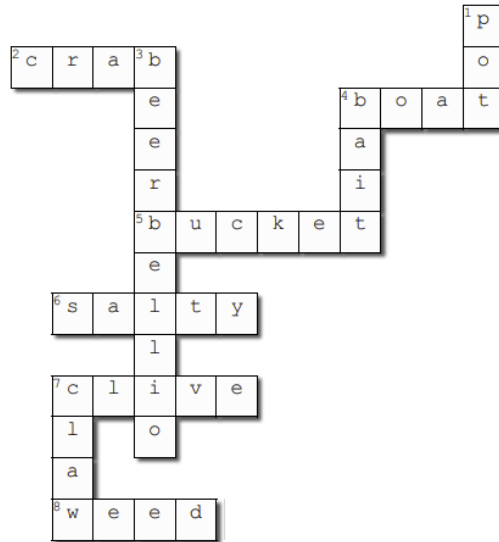
1. Something that holds boiling hot water.
3. The fisherman who wants crabs for his lunch.
4. Something smelly that is used to catch fish.
7. Another name for a HUGE nipper.



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Name: _____

The CLAW Crossword Puzzle



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

2. Clive, Snippy and Jenny are all this type of animal. (**crab**)
4. Something you sit in when you are on the water. (**boat**)
5. Where Beerbellio keeps the crabs in the boat. A big blue ... (**bucket**)
6. The name of the starfish hiding throughout The Claw book. (**salty**)
7. The name of the crab who loses his nipper. (**clive**)
8. The place where Clive hides. (**weed**)

Down

1. Something that holds boiling hot water. (**pot**)
3. The fisherman who wants crabs for his lunch. (**beerbellio**)
4. Something smelly that is used to catch fish. (**bait**)
7. Another name for a HUGE nipper. (**claw**)



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True or False

Circle the correct answer for each statement: true or false.

Crabs throw their nippers when they are frightened. TRUE FALSE

Mud crabs live in the mud. TRUE FALSE

Crabs eat chicken wings. TRUE FALSE

Crabs can fly. TRUE FALSE

Me Beerbellio dreams of having crab sandwiches for his lunch. TRUE FALSE

Snippy tips the big blue bucket over to release the crabs. TRUE FALSE

Salty the starfish is purple. TRUE FALSE

In the end Mr Beerbellio decides never to go crabbing again. TRUE FALSE

Jenny is a kind and friendly crab. TRUE FALSE

Clive is a hero. TRUE FALSE

The numberplate on Mr Beerbellio's ute is I LOVE LETTUCE TRUE FALSE



True or False - Answer Sheet

Crabs throw their nippers when they are frightened.	TRUE
Mud crabs live in the mud.	TRUE
Crabs eat chicken wings.	TRUE
Crabs can fly.	FALSE
Me Beerbellio dreams of having crab sandwiches for his lunch.	TRUE
Snippy tips the big blue bucket over to release the crabs.	FALSE
Salty the starfish is purple.	FALSE
In the end Mr Beerbellio decides never to go crabbing again.	FALSE
Jenny is a kind and friendly crab.	TRUE
Clive is a hero.	TRUE
The numberplate on Mr Beerbellio's ute is I LOVE LETTUCE	FALSE



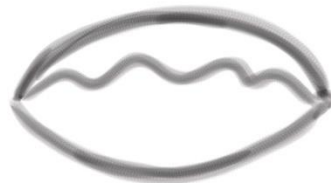
How to Draw a Crab Step by Step Guide

HOW TO DRAW A CRAB

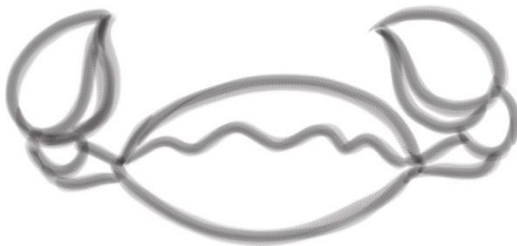
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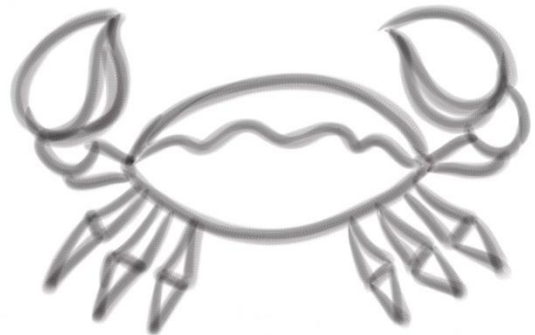
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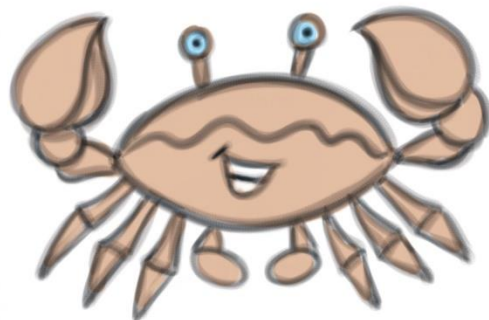
4



5



6



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