

Names: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

Crayfish Dissection Questions

Questions to Answer During Dissection:

1. What is the main difference between the cephalothorax and the abdomen?
2. Which appendages in the cephalic region are related to the eating of food?
3. How are the maxillipeds related to eating?
4. Is your specimen a male or female? How do you know?
5. From which view, dorsal or ventral, can you see the location of the appendages on the segments more clearly?
6. Rows of chitinous teeth line the stomach. Predict their function.
7. The feathery nature of the gills increases their surface area. Why is this important?
8. Many nerves leave from each ganglion. Where do you think these nerves go?
9. What organs in your body carry out the same function as the “green glands”?

Post Lab Questions

1. What structures are used for capturing prey and securing and eating food?
2. How are the antennae, chelipeds, other walking legs, and swimmerets related?

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3. What are the main structures you could have observed when you removed the exoskeleton of the abdomen? Give the function of each
4. Is the crayfish most vulnerable to its enemies from the dorsal or ventral side? Why?
5. The crayfish usually molts, or sheds its exoskeleton, twice a year. Why does the crayfish "hide" after it molts?
6. Of the systems studied, which two are most unlike the related human system? Why?
7. Although the crayfish has an inflexible cephalothorax, the crayfish is classified as a segmented animal. Why?
8. Label the diagram of the crayfish.

