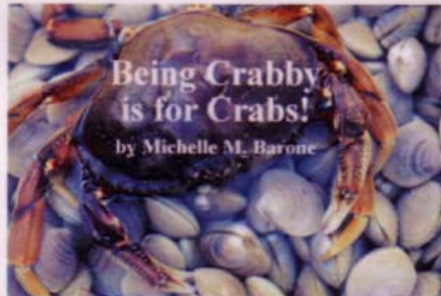


Wee Ones

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It's fun to blab about crabs when you know a few facts.

Which crab never loses its mittens? The Chinese mitten crab keeps its mittens on at all times with thick patches of hair on each claw.



Ghost Crab

The ghost crab isn't invisible, but it is sand colored, and moves so fast it seems to disappear when it buries itself.

Get a load of the crab in a mobile home! Hermit crabs drag their houses wherever they go.

Sometimes sponges and sea anemones hitch rides on the hermit crab's shell. When the crab moves into a larger shell, it transplants its passengers onto its new home.

Little Miss Muffet would have run away from a five pound spider crab, but not you! Kids can easily catch these slow walking crabs. The female can lay 45,000 to 400,000 eggs.

Is a blue crab a Jimmy, a Sally, or a Sook? A male "Jimmy"

has a shape like the Washington Monument on his belly. A young female, called a Sally has an upside down “V” on her belly. The mature female is a Sook and has an upside down “U” like the United States Capitol Building on her belly.

Young green grabs camouflage or change their color to blend in with their surroundings.

The male fiddler crab plays violin. When he takes bites with his smaller claw, it looks like he’s pulling a bow across his larger claw or his “fiddle.”



Fiddler Crab (*Uca pugnax*)

Inside out! Crabs have skeletons on the outside of their bodies instead of on the inside like people. Crabs outgrow their shells like you outgrow your clothes! Crabs grow a new soft shell under the old one. Then the outside shell splits open in back and the crab “busts out.” It hides up to four days until the new shell gets hard enough for protection.

Native Americans used horseshoe crab shells to bail out canoes. The tails were used for spear tips. This crab has four eyes, five pairs of legs and two pairs of claws!