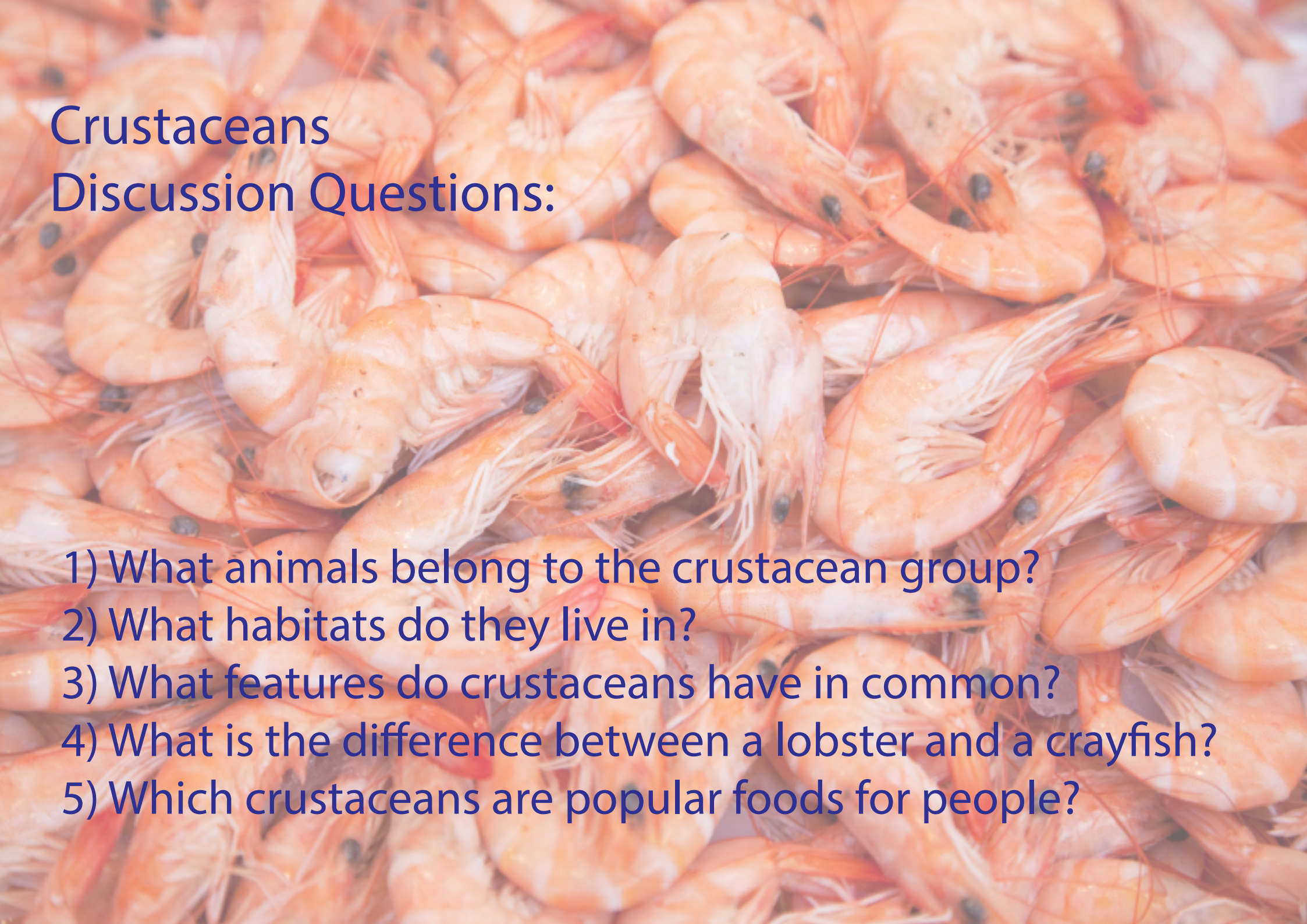


Crustaceans
Discussion Questions:

1) What animals belong to the crustacean group?
2) What habitats do they live in?
3) What features do crustaceans have in common?
4) What is the difference between a lobster and a crayfish?
5) Which crustaceans are popular foods for people?

CRUSTACEANS

- Have an exoskeleton.
- Have two pairs of antennae.
- Have segmented body parts.
- Have many pairs of legs, some used for feeding, swimming etc.
- Most molt by shedding outer skeleton to allow for growth.
- Lay eggs.

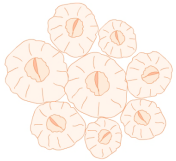
CRABS

LOBSTERS & CRAYFISH

SHRIMP (PRAWNS)

BARNACLES

* found in salt water
* permanently attaches to rocks, bottom of boats, even skin surface of whales.



KRILL & PLANKTON

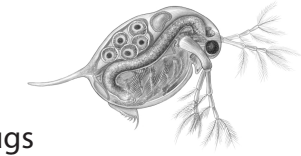
* very small to microscopic
* found in salt water

WOODLICE

* includes slaters, pillbugs
* found on land

WATERFLEAS

* microscopic
* found in fresh water



Crustaceans- Crabs

There are numerous species of crabs that live in marine and freshwater environments. Some dwell permanently underwater, others dwell in semi aquatic habitats such as mudflats. Some may be found buried into sand or crawling among rocky pools at the beach. Many crabs can be seen scuttling across the beach sideways.

Crabs have hard shells, jointed legs and a pair of large pincing claws. Crabs molt when they become too big for their shells and may molt many times during their lifetime. Some crabs, such as hermit crabs, seek the shelter of another creature's dicarded shell to live in.

Crustaceans- Lobsters and Crayfish

Crustaceans have a segmented body that is covered with a hard exoskeleton. They have five pairs of legs on the abdomen and five sets of swimmerets on the tail. Sometimes their first set of legs have large claws.

A true lobster has two large claws. There are two species of true lobster: The European, which is found along the Atlantic coast of Europe and in the Meditterranean Sea, and American lobsters, which are found along the Atlantic coast of America. (See picture above left)

Rock lobsters (or spiny lobsters) do not have claws. Rock lobsters are found in the warmer waters of the Carribean and the Meditterranean. They are also abundant in Australasian waters. (See picture above right)

Crayfish (also known as crawfish) only live in freshwater so they may be found in lakes, rivers and streams. A crayfish is much smaller than a lobster. (See picture left)

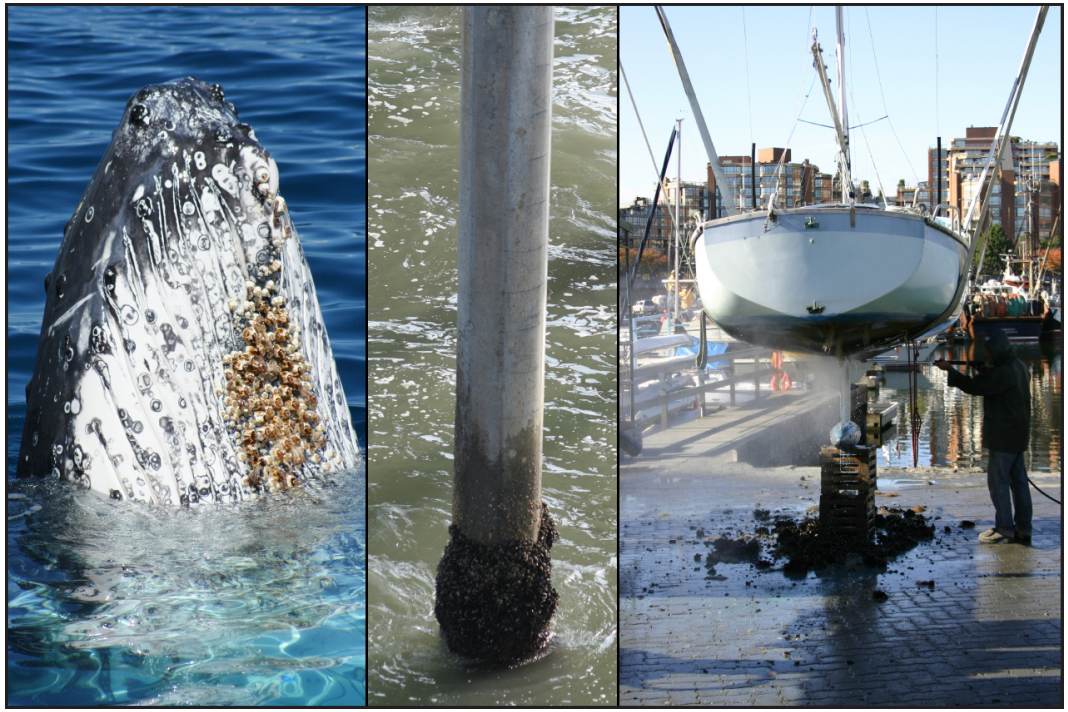
Crustaceans- Shrimp and Krill

Shrimp (also known as prawns) live in marine environments and can also be found in rivers and estuaries. They have fine 'walking' legs that they use to perch on the floor and strong swimmerets on the underside of their body that they use for moving through the water. They have two sets of antennae that they use to 'feel' and 'taste' their surroundings. When startled, a shrimp can swim backwards by rapidly beating its tail.

Some shrimp have adapted to their particular habitats by developing methods of coexisting with animals much larger than themselves. One example is the cleaner shrimp. This shrimp provides a cleaning service for animals such as fish and eels. The fish allow the shrimp to crawl over them and eat any parasites that may be on their skin, in their gills, even in their mouth! (See picture left)

Krill are tiny shrimp-like marine creatures that live in oceans all around the world. They are the main food source for many bird and mammal species.

Barnacles



Barnacles live in marine environments. They attach themselves to hard surfaces during the larval stage of their life. Barnacles can grow on rocks, on the underside of boats, and on the pilons of bridges and piers. Some even choose to make the skin of a whale their home! Some grow their shells directly on the surface of an object. Some attach themselves via a stalk (also known as a peduncle).

Once established, barnacles do not move from their chosen positions. Not being able to move can make them an easy target for predators so barnacles increase their chances of survival by clumping together, often remaining inside the safety of their shells.

Barnacles have apendages covered in fine hair that they extend out of their shell to feed on passing plankton. The hairs on these appendages are extremely sensitive and also detect danger from passing predators.

Crustaceans- Woodlice

Woodlice are land dwelling crustaceans that have an exoskeleton, segmented bodies and seven pairs of jointed legs. Some species can roll them selves up into a ball for protection when threatened.

The female keeps her eggs under her body until they are ready to hatch as small white offspring. The wood louse will go through a series of moults as it grows too big for its exoskeleton before reaching an adult size.

A woodlouse can also be known in different parts of the world as a slater, pill bug, sow bug, wood bug or roly-poly.

Crustaceans- Waterfleas

Waterfleas are microscopic crustaceans that inhabit freshwater systems. They can be found in rivers, streams, lakes and ponds all over the world. There are some rare species that inhabit marine environments.

Because they are so tiny, samples can only be seen clearly under a microscope. Waterfleas have segmented legs and antennae that they use to help propel them through the water. They have a single eye and a pair of mandibles at the mouth. They eat organic matter and bacteria.

Waterfleas, being small creatures, provide food for larger animals in the food chain.

Which of these seafoods are crustaceans?