

Homarus americanus

American lobster,
northern lobster

Native to Maine

Coastal
Rocky Intertidal

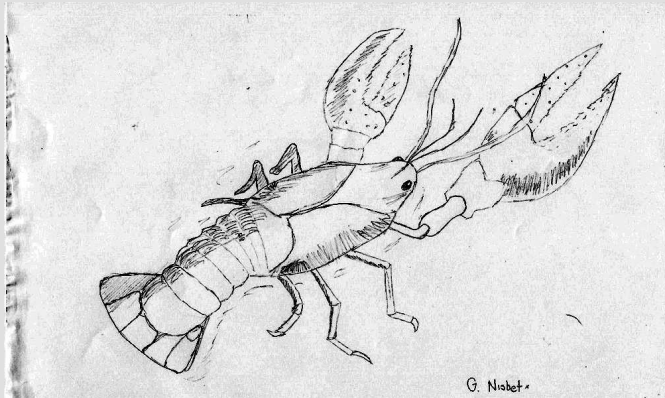
Carapace (Shell)



Gulf of Maine Research Institute



Look for a crustacean with large claws, one long pair of antennae, one short pair of antennules, and a fanned tail. Lobsters found hiding in tidepools are usually less than 12 cm long.



G. Nisbet

G. Nisbet, King Middle School, CC-BY

Additional



VS user ibla, Vinalhaven School



Lobsters can regrow their claws. This photo shows a lobster with a big crusher claw on the left, and the bright red bud of a claw that is starting to grow back on the right.

Full View



VS user msk_II, Middle School of the Kennebunks



Look under rocks and seaweed for long bodies with bluish green to brown shells that can be hard or soft depending on the timing of their last molt (shedding an old shell to allow new growth).

Legs and Claws



VS user msk_cs, Middle School of the Kennebunks



Look for one large crushing claw and one smaller claw for cutting and tearing. Lobsters have 4 pairs of walking legs.

Similar Species

Lobsters look very similar to crayfish, but crayfish live in freshwater and lobsters live in saltwater.

Did You Know?

The largest lobster caught in Maine was 27 pounds (12 kg) and 40 inches (1m) long, about as tall as a 3 year old child. It was caught in February 2012 near Cushing, and named "Rocky" for it's huge, tough claws!