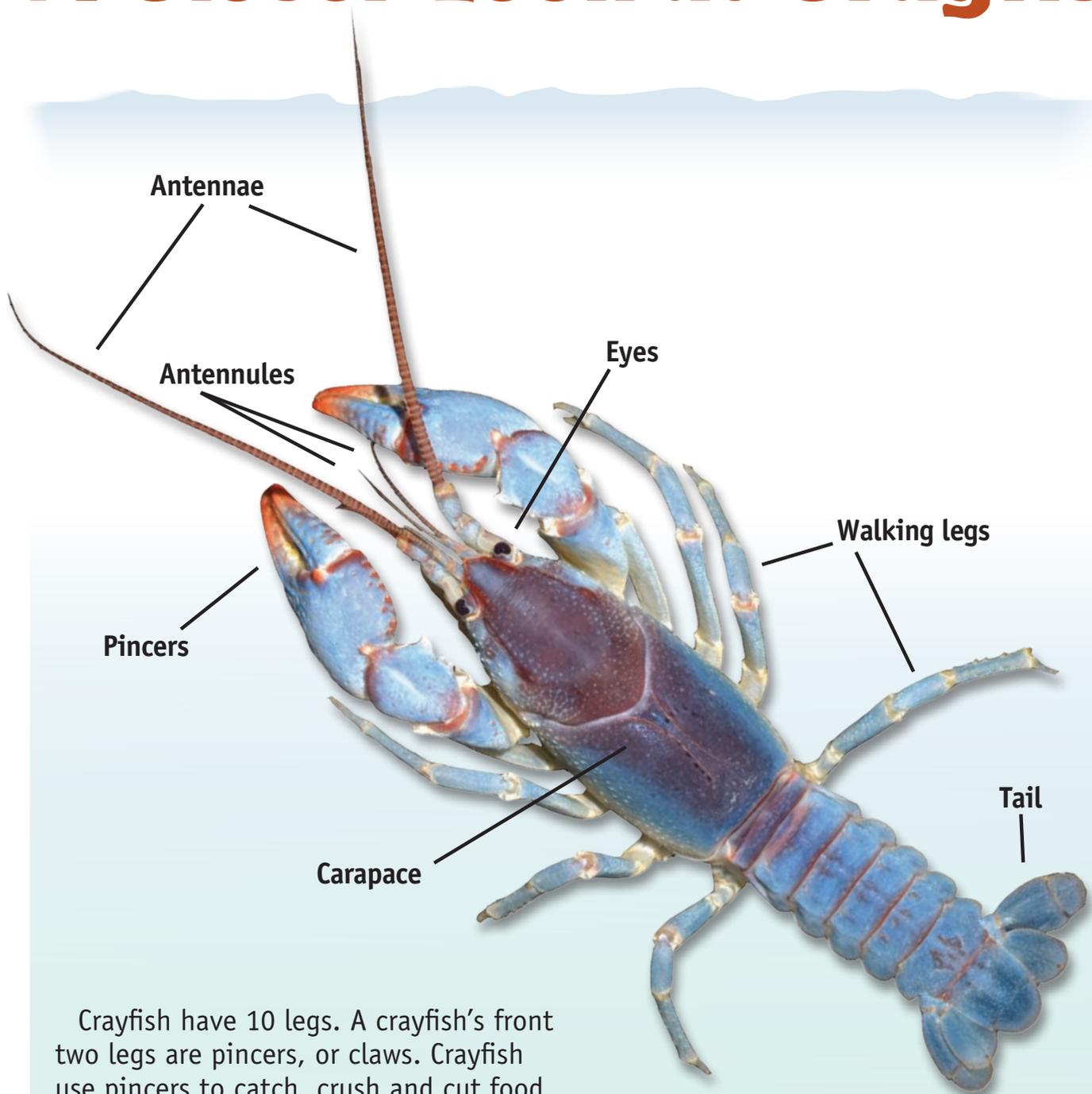


A Closer Look at Crayfish



Crayfish have 10 legs. A crayfish's front two legs are pincers, or claws. Crayfish use pincers to catch, crush and cut food. Pincers are also used to dig and defend.

The other eight legs are for walking. The first two pairs of walking legs are tipped with small pincers. These pincers are used to probe cracks and holes to find food. The first two pairs of legs are also used for eating and grooming.

Crayfish can move in any direction—forward, sideways or backwards. When startled, a crayfish quickly moves

backwards by rapidly flicking its fan-shaped tail.

Crayfish have two pairs of antennae. The short pair are called antennules. Antennules are used to taste the water and food. The long antennae are used for the sense of touch and helps the crayfish find food and feel vibrations of predators swimming nearby.

Crayfish have many smaller “legs,” called swimmerets, under the abdomen. Swimmerets help with swimming and balance. Female crayfish use swimmerets

to carry eggs and babies. If a crayfish breaks a leg or swimmeret, it can grow a new one to take its place.



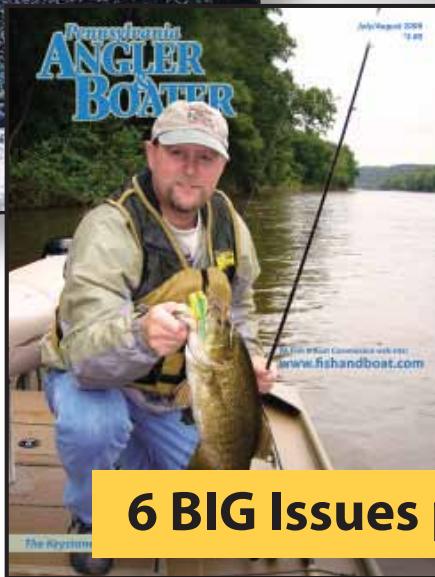
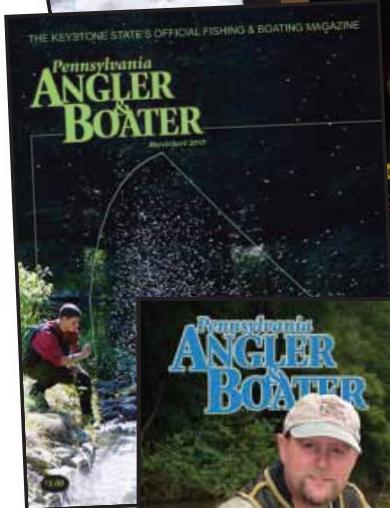
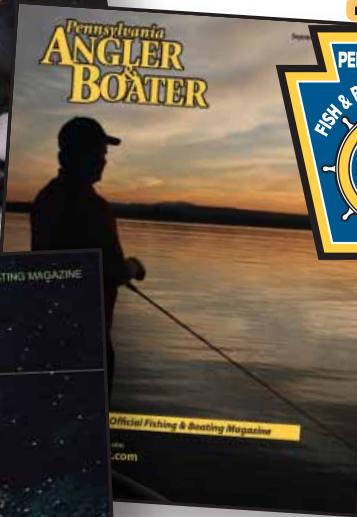
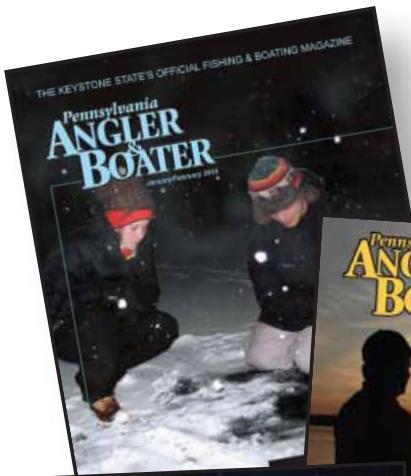
Digger Crayfish with babies

When faced with danger, crayfish will hide. When unable to hide, a crayfish will stand tall and raise its opened pincers high in the air to look as big as possible. Then, the crayfish may slowly retreat by walking backwards. If the threatening animal is persistent, it may get a strong pinch from the crayfish.



Like insects, crayfish have compound eyes made up of thousands of tiny eyes. A crayfish's eyes sit on short stalks instead of in its head. This gives crayfish the ability to look around without moving.

Crayfish breathe with gills located under the carapace. A crayfish needs water to breathe and live. Many crayfish species are sensitive to water pollution.



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