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The **Japanese Spider** **crab** is the largest crab in the world, measuring a massive average 4m in length and taller than any human!

**Crabs**

Crabs are hard shelled animals found on land, in rivers and in the sea. These 10 legged animals have two legs modified into **claws**. Their outer shell is called an **exoskeleton**, and crabs shed and re-grow this as they get bigger! They are in the group of animals known as **crustaceans**, along with prawns and lobsters. Crabs are not fussy eaters! They eat plankton, seaweed, shellfish, fish, a whale carcass- basically anything, dead or alive!

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Some crabs are walkers and some are swimmers. The diagram on the left above shows a swimmer crab (pointed back legs for gripping rocks and sand) while the crab on the right is a swimming crab (oar shaped back legs to aid movement in the water). You can tell a male crab from a female by turning them upside down- a female has a U shaped abdomen while males have a V shape.



**Actions:**

* Crabs come in almost all colours and sizes. Use your imagination and create your own species!
* Research other crustaceans such as lobsters, prawns or sea spiders
* What animals eat crabs? Create a food chain using crabs