

A CRAB FROM THE PAST

This creature has been around since the days of the dinosaurs. Its closest living relatives are spiders and scorpions.

Two of its eyes, tiny dots on either side of a ridge at the front of its shell, can only detect light and dark. Another pair, its compound eyes, look like insect eyes. They see many images, like a kaleidoscope.

This creature crawls through the mudflats, shoveling up worms and clams with the front of its shell. As it moves, it mixes oxygen into the black mud that is buried just below the surface.

A garbage collector of the estuary, this crustacean eats the remains of dead animals. It uses its spike-like tail as a rudder when it swims. Using its tail, it can right itself if it gets stranded on its back. Indians used its tail for a spear tip, but this animal doesn't use it as a weapon.

Its shell has been used as a boat bailer or ground into fertilizer. It is prized for its blue blood. Medical researchers

Draw the special creature found in Great Bay.

Using the numbers as a guide, copy the shapes in the smaller boxes to the larger boxes to find out what it is.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12

This creature is a _____.

use it to identify disease causing bacteria in human blood.

These animals mate May through

July. At that time, you might see a large one dragging one or two smaller ones onto shore. The large one is a female, at least 11 years old, and the smaller ones are the males. The female will lay her

eggs in several holes in sand or mud and the males will fertilize them.

You can often find their shells along the shore of Great Bay. The animals didn't die. The shells are empty because the inhabitant crawled out of its shell when it needed to grow a bigger one.