CRAYFISH SAFETY RULES

We are about to begin a study of a fascinating animal – the crayfish (also known as the crawdad or crawfish). Before we actually begin to work with our specimens, we’ll need to take a few moments to read and discuss some valuable information about crayfish.

1. Your crayfish are living organisms and because of this should be treated with care and respect.
2. Do not leave your crayfish unattended in the plastic bins or on desktops. A fall can be fatal to the crayfish.
3. Food should never be placed in the pool. In fact it is a good idea to rinse your crayfish off after a feeding session so that food particles are washed away. Food will rot, causing the water to become foul, and this can kill the crayfish.
4. Do not use soap to clean the pool or feeding tubs. A thorough washing with water and a clean cloth or paper towel should be sufficient.
5. When replacing the water in the pool or tubs, be sure that it is not too warm. Water too high in temperature is more harmful than water of a low temperature.
6. Do not place the crayfish in a sunny location for an extended period of time. The sun can heat water rapidly.
7. If you feel uncomfortable picking up a crayfish, ask a friend for help. Do not attempt it on your own until you feel confident about it. Remember a fall can be fatal to a crayfish. Watch carefully when your teacher demonstrates the proper way to pick up a crayfish. Be sure to use only this method. It is the safest for you and your crayfish.
8. Be a responsible and considerate scientist. This includes being diligent about making daily notations in your science journal and treating your animal with care and respect.

I am ready to treat my crayfish with care and respect.

Student signature: ____________________________
Choose a word from each Chapter’s “Word Banks” to complete the sentences.

Chapter 1 NOT A FISH

1. Crayfish belong to a group of animals called
   ________________________________
2. All crustaceans have a ________________________________.
3. Most crustaceans live in ________________________________.
4. Three other examples of crustaceans are ____________, ____________, and ____________.
5. There are over ______ species of crustaceans.
6. There are over ______ species of crayfish.
7. Crayfish live all over the ________________________________.
8. Some crayfish dig holes with high walls to live in. These high walls are called
   ________________.
9. Crayfish breathe with ________________.
10. Tiny crayfish are ______ inch long, medium crayfish are ______ inches long. The
    largest crayfish is ______ inches long.
11. Crayfish come in many colors such as ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________.
12. The average crayfish lives ____ years, but some live ____ years. Large ones live ____________ years.
Chapter 2

LOTS OF PARTS

1. A crayfish has 2 body parts: the ______________________, which is the head and chest, and the ________________________.

2. They have 2 eyes on short ________________.

3. Their eyes are ________________, which means that they are made up of many small eyes. This helps them to see moving parts.

4. Crayfish have _________ antennas. (Two long and two short). The crayfish uses them to ________________, ________________, and ________________.

5. Crayfish have _______ tiny mouth parts that help it _______ and smell.

6. A crayfish has _______ big claws to help grab and hold things as well as protect itself.

7. ________________ is the number of walking legs that a crayfish has under its cephalothorax. A crayfish can move 3 ways: ________________, ________________, and ________________.

8. You will find ____ swimmerets under the abdomen. They look like small legs, but are not used for walking.

9. When a crayfish curls its fan-like tail under itself, it shoots _______ and makes it hard to catch.

10. The crayfish's body is covered by a shell called an ________________________.
Chapter 3 DINNER TIME

1. Crayfish hunt at night because it is ________________. They like to hide.

2. Crayfish always go ________________ into their hiding places with their antennas and claws pointing outward.

3. A crayfish's claws have many uses - - to __________ food, and to __________ food into pieces. While its walking legs __________ food and __________ it up.

4. Crayfish have a healthy appetite. They eat ________________, ________________, ________________, ________________, ________________, ________________, ________________, ________________, and ________________. Whew!
### Chapter 4 GROWING UP

1. A crayfish with eggs on her abdomen is said to be ________________.

2. Crayfish lay __________.

3. With a glue-like substance, the eggs grow stalks and attach to ________________.

4. Swimmerets move over the eggs to bring ______________ to the eggs.

5. Depending on the species, a crayfish can lay anywhere from _______ to _______ at a time.

6. It may take _______ to _______ weeks for the eggs to hatch.

7. Newly-hatched baby crayfish are called ________________.

8. The shedding of the exoskeleton is called ____________________.

9. This shedding of the exoskeleton is repeated a number of times until the babies are ready to leave their _______________.

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**Crayfish Study Guide**
Chapter 5 ENEMIES

1. The following animals like to nibble on crayfish: ________________, ________________, ________________, ________________, ________________.

2. The easiest time to eat a crayfish is after they have ________________.

3. Humans use crayfish as ________________ for fishing, and in some parts of the world they are simply ________________.

4. A crayfish's biggest defense against its enemies is its ________________.

5. A crayfish is not afraid to let a body part fall off if it is in a fight because it will ________________. (This is called regeneration.)

BONUS: Some place in the book they give two other names for crayfish.

They are: ________________ and ________________.
POOL OBSERVATION NOTES

Today you have the opportunity to observe the crayfish in the pool. Record notes about what you observe. You might want to think about the color, size, shape, body parts, movement, sound, or even the position the crayfish is in. Be a great observer!
Today you had the opportunity to look at the crayfish in the swimming pool. In a well-written paragraph (topic sentence, details, and conclusion) share what you observed about how they behaved.
DRAW AND LABEL ME DAY

Today you will have the opportunity to get to know your crayfish "up close and personal." In the space below please make a good sized drawing of your crayfish and label the various body parts. The cover may be very helpful to you in labeling. You may do the back or the back and front if you have the time.
Today you will need a centimeter ruler. First you are going to predict the length of the various body parts listed below. Then you will actually measure and record them using mm and cm. Have fun.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body part</th>
<th>Prediction</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cephalothorax</td>
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<td>abdomen</td>
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<td>right antenna</td>
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<td>left antenna</td>
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<td>flipper</td>
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<td>right claw</td>
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<td>left claw</td>
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<tr>
<td>walking leg</td>
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<tr>
<td>swimmeret</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**FEED ME DAY**

Today you will have the opportunity to try and feed your crayfish. You have been given a "crayfish buffet" and a pair of tweezers in which to try this. Choose at least 4 foods and see if your crayfish eats any of them. Be sure that the piece is tiny (just a tidbit). Try only one food at a time. Be patient. Remember just because your crayfish doesn't eat that food, it doesn't mean that it doesn't like it, it may just not be hungry.

You may try more than 4 foods. Just record what you tried and if it ate it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Ate (X)</th>
<th>Didn't Eat (X)</th>
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</table>
Write a paragraph explaining what happened when you fed the crayfish. Tell about what the crayfish ate (or didn’t eat) and give some reasons as to why this happened. Be sure to have a beginning, middle, and end to your paragraph!
CATCH UP DAY

Perhaps you missed a day due to illness or a lesson. Perhaps you didn't finish an activity or would just like to repeat it. Perhaps you would just like to try something SAFE that you've been thinking about during the week. Today is the day that you can do it. In the space below, draw or record what you did in class today with your crayfish.