

Name: _____
Period: _____ Date: _____

Crayfish Dissection

Write-Up



Make accurate colored-pencil drawings from your specimen. Use clear leader lines, place labels outside each drawing, and note any structure that is missing or damaged.

Materials Needed: gloves, eye protection, paper towels, colored pencils, dissecting tray, scissors, blunt probe, forceps, and preserved crayfish

Procedure Summary: Orient and examine the specimen; complete the external observations; make a shallow mid-dorsal carapace cut; open the branchial chamber; identify the gills; open the exoskeleton on the dorsal abdomen, remove the remaining carapace carefully, identify organs before moving tissue; complete all drawings.

Clean Up: Use the designated specimen container; return, rinse, and dry all tools; clean the tray and work surface; remove gloves; wash hands with soap and water.

Drawing 1 External dorsal view

Draw the whole specimen with the anterior end facing left. Label: cephalothorax, cervical groove, abdomen, rostrum, compound eye, antenna, antennule, cheliped, walking legs, swimmerets, one uropod, and telson.

Drawing 1

Drawing 2 Exposed internal dorsal view

Draw the opened specimen with the anterior end facing left. Label: branchial chamber, gills, heart, cardiac stomach, pyloric stomach, digestive gland or hepatopancreas, intestine, abdominal flexor muscles, green gland, and paired ventral nerve cord.

Drawing #2

Name: _____
Period: _____ Date: _____

Crayfish Dissection Write-Up



Drawing 3 Left cheliped

Draw the cheliped and show each visible joint.

Drawing 3

Drawing 4 Single gill

Draw one gill . Show its feathery exchange surface.

Drawing 4

Drawing 5 Ventral abdomen and sex determination

Draw the ventral abdomen. Label: swimmerets, walking legs, maxillipeds, one uropod, and telson. Identify the specimen as male, female, or indeterminate and circle the evidence used.

Drawing 5

Think About It

1. How does the structure of a gill support efficient gas exchange?

2. Why must the carapace be lifted during the incision?

3. How do the cardiac and pyloric stomachs perform different jobs?
