

A Lobster Anatomy Learning Activity

With their ten legs, beady eyes, and exoskeleton, crustaceans look like bugs of the sea! Well they *are* arthropods after all, distantly related to land bugs and insects. The name **arthropod** comes from Greek words meaning “jointed leg”. For many arthropods, their legs aren’t the only parts jointed!

The **Caribbean spiny lobster** is a crustacean arthropod that lives in reef habitats and uses different parts of its body for all the things this creature in the sea does.

Antennae help the spiny lobster feel the area around them and make noise to communicate when rubbed on their head! Once they know where to go, the spiny lobster’s legs tell scuttle them along the seafloor. Special arthropods with **ten legs** are called decapods, from the Greek for “ten legs”. Their **compound eyes** help them see from the top of their main body, or **cephalothorax**. Their **abdomen** has powerful muscles covered by a segmented shell that allows it to bend. At the tip of the abdomen is the **tail-fan**, this allows the spiny lobster to move water and swim easily like a fish or scuba-diver’s fin!

Activity: After reading about the Caribbean spiny lobster, can you find the important parts of its body? Number the arrows below.

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| 1. Antennae | 4. Cephalothorax |
| 2. Ten legs | 5. Abdomen |
| 3. Compound eyes | 6. Tail-fan |



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