

SOFT SHELL CRAB WORD SEARCH



AQUACULTURE

CRAB

CRUSTACEAN

DECAPOD

GROW

HARD SHELL

LIFECYCLE

MOLT

PEELER

SHED

SOFT SHELL

WATER

BLUE CRAB SHEDDING FACTS

Blue crabs must shed or molt their exoskeleton, or shell, in order to grow and replace lost legs.

To shed their shell, the crab swells with water and breaks its old shell along the back edge.

The crab wiggles out through the back of the shell.

The new crab is soft and will re-harden in a few hours.

Crabs will molt every few days when they first hatch from eggs to a couple of times a year as they become adults.

Female blue crabs will not molt once they are adults.

