## SOFT SHELL CRAB WORD SEARCH

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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.

