



## American Lobster

Larger relatives of crayfish, American lobsters can grow quite big, reaching over 2 feet in length and weighing more than 40 lbs. These *crustaceans* shed (*molt*) their shells as they grow larger. If they lose a leg or a giant claw, they can grow new ones.

The *antennae* and shorter *antennules* help the American lobster smell, not only picking up the odor but also indicating the direction from which it is coming.

**Where:** American lobsters may be found along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, from North Carolina to Labrador.

**Fun Fact:** While American lobsters are usually greenish-brown, occasionally they can be blue. Scientists estimate that 1 out of every 1 to 2 million lobsters is born blue.

**Connection:** What traits in humans are different from one individual to another? What makes you unique?

**Writing:** Imagine diving from a boat and encountering a rare *blue* lobster. Describe what it looks like, including shape, color, textures, movement. Add how you imagine other animals would perceive and respond to such an oddity.