

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

- 1 Approximately, how many crayfish species are there in the world? How many of those species are in North America?
- 2 At one time, how many fertilized eggs can a female crayfish produce?
- 3 Take a look at the Table below.

	Native range	Adult size	Claw	Carapace
Red Swamp Crayfish	South-central U.S. and northeastern Mexico	up to 4.7" (12cm - front of carapace to tip of tail)	Very bumpy; bright red spots	Rough; reddish, may have dark and light bands
Virile Crayfish	South-central Canada, northern U.S.	up to 5.1" (13cm)	Very bumpy; blue-green may have orange tips	Smooth; faint to few markings
Ringed Crayfish	Central plains and Ozarks regions of the U.S.	up to 4.7" (12cm)	Bumpy; tips with black and orange rings	Smooth; dark and light bands on either side;
Rusty Crayfish	Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio	up to 4" (10cm)	Bumpy; tips with black and orange rings	Smooth; rust-colored spot on each side
Signal Crayfish	Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and British Columbia (invasive in California)	up to 6.3" (16cm)	Smooth; white or pale patch over the claw hinge	Smooth; variable color with faint to few markings

Table 2. Native range and characteristics for crayfish species invasive to the west coast. The characteristics above are of typical adults but there is a lot of variability, particularly in color, within each species.

- a. Which crayfish is native to Oregon and Washington but invasive in California?
 - b. Which crayfish has a smooth carapace with a rust-colored spot on each side?
 - c. Which crayfish has a rough carapace and bright red spots on its claws?
- 4 Would you consider crayfish to be experts at bluffing?
 - 5 What do you think is the evolutionary advantage of this behavior? One idea is that it reduces the amount of actual fighting and injury to the crayfish. Can you think of others?
 - 6 In Oregon, Washington, and California, which species of crayfish are you likely to find in ponds and lakes, rivers and streams, and in still and moving water?
 - 7 What does it mean to be omnivorous? How could this be an advantage for invasive crayfish?
 - 8 What is something people can do to prevent the spread of crayfish?