

J.C.

SSS Year Level B

Mrs. McCowan

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A Gigantic Crab

The coconut crab, which is the most humongous land-dwelling crustacean there is, weighs nine pounds and measures three feet from leg to leg, making it the size of a small dog (“The Coconut Crab”). Weirdly, to protect its territory, it has been seen coming into rooms and snapping its claws (“Coconut Crabs in Print and on the Web”). It lives in the islands in the Indian and Pacific oceans because of the habitat (“A Huge Crustacean”). Like all crabs, it has an exoskeleton, but unlike other crabs, it lives mostly on land, primarily due to the fact that if it stays underwater for more than an hour, it will quietly drown. (“The Coconut Crab”).

Their pincers are one of their most dangerous features, mainly because they have the biting force of an alligator (“The Coconut Crab”). Even though they have an intensely powerful force in their claws, which can make them a fierce predator, they still choose to eat mostly fruits, although they do sometimes eat small animals (“Coconut Crabs in Print and on the Web”). However, their claws come in handy for opening coconuts, but it still takes them hours or even days (“A Huge Crustacean”). They also take things that smell like food, too, so if you leave a dirty fork outside for a

day, it might be gone (“The Coconut Crab”). That kind of behavior gave them the nickname “robber crabs” (“Coconut Crabs in Print and on the Web”).

If you try to catch them, be warned; the crab will likely try to grab you, and it will hold for **extended** periods of time (“The Coconut Crab”). However, people need to stop hunting them, because their population is **steadily** going down (“Coconut Crabs in Print and on the Web”). Also, people sometimes keep them **as** exotic pets, **which** also affects their population (“A Huge Crustacean”). If you get stabbed however, try **tickling** its underside, and you might be spared (“The Coconut Crab”). Interestingly, they sometimes eat baby lizards, monkeys and other animals (“Coconut Crabs in Print and on the Web”). To keep their population in check, people need to study them more, **because** they haven't been able to study them very much (“A Huge Crustacean”).