

The Crab that is Not

Your parents say, "Don't talk while you chew!" What about an animal that has to walk in order to chew? The horseshoe crab has stiff hairs on the base of its legs. When the legs move, the hairs grind up its food. What does a horseshoe crab eat? Just about any small worm, tiny clam or other animal it meets on the ocean floor. What eats a horseshoe crab? Not much. It has a tough shell, the color of mud, which also helps it hide. It also digs down into the ocean bottom and gets partly covered. Horseshoe crabs are slow and clumsy, but they have been on Earth for 200 million years while the dinosaurs have come and gone. They are called crabs but are really related to spiders and scorpions.