

## Salt Marsh Exploration Worksheet Grades 3-4 Answer Key: Have You Met the Fiddler Crab?

### Identification:

Q: What kind of living thing is a fiddler crab?

A: Student answer should indicate: a fiddler crab is a crustacean

Q: How do you tell the difference between male and female fiddler crabs?

A: Student answer should specify: male crabs have one large claw and one normal-sized claw, and female crabs have two regular sized claws.

Q: What do males use their large claw for?

A: Student answer should contain the following: fighting other males or attracting females

Q: Fiddler crabs are decapods. What does this mean?

A: Student answer should say: decapods are animals with ten legs.

Q: What do fiddler crabs eat?

A: Students should say: algae.

**Habitat:**

**Q: Where do fiddler crabs live? Be specific.**

**A: Student answers should indicate** that fiddler crabs live in saltmarshes in estuaries. They live in both water and on land. Students may also describe that crabs live under rocks or in burrows.

**Q: What are three things all living things need in their habitats?**

**A: Student should answer:** 1. Food 2. Water 3. Shelter

**Q: What is your habitat? Describe how you get the three things (listed above) from your habitat.**

**A: Student may indicate that their habitat is any of the following:** house, home, apartment, New York City, New York.

- **Student may describe that they get food from:** the grocery store, the refrigerator, their parents.
- **Student may describe that they get water from:** the sink, water bottles, the grocery store.
- **Students may describe they get shelter from:** their apartment or house, their bedroom.

**Estuaries:**

**Q: What kind of water is in the Hudson River?**

**A: Students should say:** Freshwater

**Q: What kind of water is in the Atlantic Ocean?**

**A: Students should say:** Saltwater

**Q: What kind of water is around New York City?**

**A: Students should say:** Brackish water

## **Vocabulary:**

**Habitat** - A place where a living thing (plant, animal, or fungus) lives.

**Estuary** - The place where freshwater and saltwater mix to make brackish water.

**Freshwater** - Water with no salt.

**Saltwater** - Water with salt.

**Brackish water** - Water that has a mix of freshwater and saltwater.

**Saltmarsh** - A type of wetland in an estuary. Saltmarshes have water, land, and plants. The main type of plant in a saltmarsh is grass.

**Decapod** - An animal with ten legs.

**Crustacean** - A type of living thing that usually lives in water and contains an exoskeleton and three body segments. Types of crustaceans include crabs and lobsters.

## **Additional Resources:**

[Fiddler Crabs- Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

[What are Estuaries- NOAA Video](#)