



# Horseshoe Crab

*Limulus polyphemus*

May and June are the months horseshoe crabs lay their eggs in dry beach sand during high tides. Watch this video to learn amazing facts about this local marine animal

## WATCH

**Cornell Marine Program**  
"Marine Minute Monday-  
Horseshoe Crabs"

Video link:

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=SbRpw9ETI1o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbRpw9ETI1o)



## Have a chat

Use these talking points to start a conversation with your family about the video you just watched.

- Why did horseshoe crabs and sharks not go extinct like the dinosaurs?
- Red knots eat horseshoe crab eggs. What animal eggs do humans eat?
- Horseshoe crabs have blue blood from copper. What metal is in red human blood?
- Horseshoe crab monitoring helps give a population estimate. What do we call the United States population survey ten years? This survey is being conducted this year.

## Have a look

Watch the following videos to learn more about horseshoe crab, how their populations are being monitored and the Horseshoe Crab Alternative Bait Project.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2\\_456FSmd8&t=7s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2_456FSmd8&t=7s)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xal2sXvZeJc>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8vdZErTAGU&t=2s>



WHAT A PICTURE CAN TELL YOU!

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS



Tagging a horseshoe crab

- Where is the tag? Locate it in the photo.
- Why is this researcher tagging the crab at night?
- How is she holding the horseshoe crab? How are you NOT supposed to pick up a horseshoe crab?
- What tools does she have with her to help her collect information?

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

- What other animals do you know researchers place tags on?
- How do tags help scientists learn about animals?

For more information on horseshoe crabs check these website addresses:

[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration\\_pdf/0611horseshoecrab.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/0611horseshoecrab.pdf)

<https://www.backtothebays.org/hsc-fund>

<http://www.asafc.org/species/horseshoe-crab>

Check back each week for a new species or topic spotlight!

<https://www.ccemarinedigital.org>

